

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 10/1/2026) Solution

¹ P	L	² U	N	³ D	E	⁴ R	E	⁵ D		⁶ H	U	⁷ M	P	⁸ S
A		N		I		E		O		E		I		U
⁹ C	H	A	M	P		¹⁰ A	P	P	R	A	I	S	E	R
K		L		L		D		E		L		S		C
¹¹ E	P	I	S	O	D	E	S		¹² S	T	R	I	F	E
T		K		M		R		¹³ G		H		V		A
	¹⁴ B	E	T	A		¹⁵ S	H	O	W	I	N	E	S	S
¹⁶ A				T		H		V		N				E
¹⁷ S	A	¹⁸ C	R	I	F	I	C	E		¹⁹ S	W	²⁰ A	G	
P		A		C		P		R		P		U		²¹ L
²² I	M	P	A	C	T		²³ I	N	T	E	R	N	E	E
R		S		O		²⁴ N		M		C		T		G
²⁵ A	R	T	E	R	I	O	L	E		²⁶ T	W	I	N	E
N		A		P		U		N		O		E		N
²⁷ T	U	N	I	S		²⁸ S	A	T	I	R	I	S	E	D

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 PLUNDERED	Raided place belonging to newspaperman (9)	PL + UNDER + ED
6 HUMPS	Decision-maker in high school carries a heavy load (5)	UMP inside HS
9 CHAMP	Christmas fare replacing contents of cup? It's a winner (5)	C(u/HAM)P
10 APPRAISER	Software developer and reviewer (9)	APP + RAISER
11 EPISODES	Beginning of each page is poetry in parts (8)	(E)ach + P + IS + ODES
12 STRIFE	Conflict is raging at end of street (6)	RIFE after ST
14 BETA	Characters written in Tibetan and Greek lettering (4)	tiBETAn
15 SHOWINESS	Finish first in shoes sprayed primarily with glitter (9)	(WIN inside SHOES) + (S)prayed
17 SACRIFICE	Give up pouch, one found originally buried in grain (9)	SAC + [I + (F)ound] inside RICE
19 SWAG	Bundle of possessions was replaced with \$10(4)	Anagram of WAS + G
22 IMPACT	Influence a court behind the back of troublemaker (6)	(A + CT) after IMP
23 INTERNEE	Person put away popular sort of entree (8)	IN + anagram of ENTREE
25 ARTERIOLE	Small blood vessel's tear fixed by one in part (9)	Anagram of TEAR + (I inside ROLE)
26 TWINE	String quartet's last press release? (5)	quarte(T) + WINE
27 TUNIS	North African port is stored behind a large beer cask (5)	IS after TUN
28 SATIRISED	Seated rebel wearing ID is held up to ridicule (9)	SAT + (RISE inside ID)

[illegible]