

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 3/8/2024) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 TOSS-UP	To cat running around, it's a close thing (4-2)	TO + (PUSS reversed)
5 FACADE	Show air-conditioning in decline (6)	AC in FADE
9 SINGAPORE	Asian capital annoyed about current breach (9)	SORE outside (IN + GAP)
10 ROUGE	Cosmetic surgeon, extremely deficient, adjusted? (5)	Anagram of s)URGEO(n
11 TWO-TIMER	Write tome mostly about one who cheats (3-5)	Anagram of (WRITE TOM)e
12 BETTER	Improving person who plays to win (6)	Double Definition
14 SALES PITCH	This place rocked after Sia's opening line (5,5)	Anagram of THIS PLACE after (S)ia
15 GROG	Success not contributing to growing spirits, for example (4)	GROWING minus WIN
17 A LOT	Many fall out not feeling the effects of flu (1,3)	(f)A(l)L O(u)(T)
19 FORECASTER	One who looks ahead for clubs in holiday time (10)	FOR + (C inside EASTER)
22 THE DRY	Drive taken by people in general when it's not raining (3,3)	DR inside THEY
23 STALWART	Resolute person amended law in institute (8)	Anagram of LAW inside START
25 OF AGE	Adult's cigarette pinched by heartless one? (2,3)	FAG inside O(n)E
26 ENSCONCED	Established science once incorporated into design (9)	(SC + ONCE) inside END
27 BRIDAL	Rib broken by young fellow set back wedding (6)	Anagram of RIB + (LAD reversed)
28 SIMMER	Dieter dismissing large cook gently (6)	SLIMMER minus L

