

AFR Cryptic (New Year 2026) Solution

¹ P	O	² S	T	³ S	C	⁴ R	I	⁵ P	T		⁶ T	⁷ I	F	⁸ F
A		E		P		A		L				N		A
⁹ P	L	A	C	E		¹⁰ G	L	A	D	¹¹ I	A	T	O	R
A		T		N		B		C		N		H		M
¹² C	H	I	L	D	C	A	R	E		¹³ D	A	I	R	Y
Y		N		I		G		M		I		N		A
		¹⁴ G	E	N	T		¹⁵ M	A	S	S	A	G	E	R
¹⁶ S				G		¹⁷ P		T		P				D
¹⁸ T	A	¹⁹ P	E	S	T	R	Y		²⁰ F	E	E	²¹ S		
U		E		P		E		²² G		N		P		²³ D
²⁴ D	O	N	O	R		²⁵ T	R	A	N	S	P	I	R	E
I		D		E		O		M		A		N		C
²⁶ O	L	I	V	E	D	R	A	B		²⁷ B	R	O	O	K
U		N				I		I		L		U		E
²⁸ S	A	G	S		²⁹ M	A	L	T	R	E	A	T	E	D

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 POSTSCRIPT	Supplement rent prescribed in court after appointments (10)	(RIP inside CT) after POSTS
6 TIFF	Firm not starting a minor dispute (4)	(s)TIFF
9 PLACE	Locate soft and delicate ornamental fabric (5)	P + LACE
10 GLADIATOR	Fighter delighted with organisation of a riot (9)	GLAD + anagram of A RIOT
12 CHILDCARE	Youth work provided ultimately by coach in Chile (9)	[provide(D) + CAR] inside CHILE
13 DAIRY	Deal primarily with light milk supplier (5)	(D)eal + AIRY
14 GENT	Emissary giving up a respected fellow (4)	AGENT minus A
15 MASSAGER	Service gear in poor condition is rubber (8)	MASS + anagram of GEAR
18 TAPESTRY	Measures sample piece of art (8)	TAPES + TRY
20 FEES	Fellow witness returned money required for services rendered (4)	F + (SEE reversed)
24 DONOR	Head of family or a generous person (5)	DON + OR
25 TRANSPIRE	A sprinter needing conditioning to happen (9)	Anagram of A SPRINTER
26 OLIVE DRAB	Variety of a lovebird is deep yellowish green (5,4)	Anagram of A LOVEBIRD
27 BROOK	Small flower starting to redden in reserve (5)	(R)edden inside BOOK
28 SAGS	Vessel, with silver on board, sinks (4)	AG inside SS
29 MALTREATED	Have food marinated in whisky and wine roughly handled (10)	EAT inside (MALT + RED)

[illegible]