AFR Cryptic (Saturday 23/9/2023) Solution

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Across	Clue	Explanation
1 FORECAST	Prophecy supporting a sect experiencing conversion (8)	FOR + anagram of A SECT
5 GROTTO	Source of glow-worms possibly reached crossing river (6)	GOT TO outside R
10 SECOND-IN- COMMAND	Deputy condemns nomadic wandering (6-2-7)	Anagram of CONDEMNS NOMADIC
11 SEPARATION	Split peas spoiled a small amount of food (10)	Anagram of PEAS + RATION
12 MESA	Entries in scheme's actuarial table (4)	scheMES Actuarial
14 SURGED	Cocktail of drugs containing ecstasy caused a rush (6)	Anagram of DRUGS outside E
15 SEEDBED	See head of newspaper about database environment that's needed for development (7)	(SEE + ED) outside DB
18 SCEPTIC	Scoffer's cold contracted by pussy (7)	C inside SEPTIC
20 TWENTY	Run of Cabaret went years - quite a few (6)	cabareT WENT Years
21 ACES	Flying war heroes, a short time back (4)	A + (SEC reversed)
23 OPERATIONS	A surgical team works on these alternatives, taking time into account (10)	OPTIONS outside ERA
26 AMBULANCE CHASER	Cuban male mixed drink for lawyer looking for work (9,6)	Anagram of CUBAN MALE + CHASER
27 ERRAND	Make a mistake with joiner's commission (6)	ERR + AND
28 FLAT SPIN	Confused state fellow connected with changing of last access code (4,4)	F + anagram of LAST + PIN

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 FISTS	One's restricted by small feet and small rounded hands (5)	IS inside FT + S
2 RECAPTURE	Care arranged time in sterile recovery (9)	Anagram of CARE + (T inside PURE)
3 CONGREGATE	Kid, for example, brought in to annoy rally (10)	CON + (EG inside GRATE)
4 STILTED	Wooden pole put on an angle (7)	S + TILTED
6 RAMS	Sheep hit hard by start to spring (4)	RAM + (S)pring
7 TEASE	Wind up when in a part of a golf course (5)	AS inside TEE
8 OLD HANDS	Experienced workers sprayed hold as well as bow of ship (3,5)	Anagram of HOLD + AND + (S)hip
9 ACTORS	They play parts or part described in extract or script (6)	extrACT OR Script
13 DESERT CHAT	Leave small potato for gibber bird (6,4)	DESERT + CHAT
16 BOTTOMS UP	Saying raised in pubs all over the place! (7,2)	MOTTO reversed inside anagram of PUBS
17 ESCALADE	Mount extraordinary case against lad with drugs (8)	Anagram of CASE + LAD + E
19 COPING	Managing brickie's top course (6)	Double Definition
20 TARSEAL	Temperature associated with a laser affected surface (7)	T + anagram of A LASER
22 EMBER	Five of them berated old flame (5)	thEM BERated
24 SIREN	Father now at the front is a charmer (5)	SIRE + (N)ow
25 PLAN	Flyer detailed a proposal? (4)	PLAN(e)