FORM CAL-1 · PERSONAL COPY

THE FIFTY-SIX

ALSO ISSUED AS THE FIFTY-FIVE IN OFFICES KEEPING THE 55TH.

FORM CAL-1 · ISSUED, NOT LENT

ISSUED TO

The Headmaster. Personal copy.

TODAY'S DATE

WHICH AGE? ☐ 55TH ☐ 56TH ☐ BOTH

both. it's always both.

This copy belongs to the Headmaster. If found, return it. If read, you have already been noted.

FROM THE BLACK INDEX OF MONTAVERA

THE FIFTY-SIX

Form CAL-1 · Personal Copy

Year 5 of the 56th Age

Year 18 of the 55th, in offices that keep it

Fifty-six weeks · three hundred and ninety-two days · one of them long

BY SEBASTIAN AGUILAR

N O T I C E T O P L A Y E R S . TODAY'S DATE MAY BE READ ALOUD. THE REST OF THIS COPY MAY NOT.

THE FIFTY-SIX · Form CAL-1, Personal Copy · Year 5 of the 56th Age.

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ISBN _____

The outside dates in this copy are computed from the ruled anchor: Moonsday, Zipsdier 81, Year 4 of the 56th Age is Monday 26 October 2026. They are exact. The weekdays are locked. The year does not drift; the outside does.

Set in IM Fell English and Courier Prime. The Headmaster's hand is set in Caveat; the farmer's print in Old Standard. All typefaces under the SIL Open Font License.

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The months: Hendiber · 40 Sunmanber · 50 Zipsdier · 60 Mourndier · 92 Gloomber · 102 Teadber · 112 Quillder · 122 Frostder · 132 Shroudber · 142 Chandber · 152 Feastber · 162 Oldber · 172



Every date falls on the same weekday every year.
The Bureau considers this its finest achievement, and has filed it under Weather.

PREFACE

On Keeping a Copy

A day is not given. It is arrived at.

This is my copy. It is the city's most popular calendar, which means that most citizens own one and very few have read the margins. The margins are mine.

A calendar is commonly mistaken for a list of days. It is not. The days are not on it. The days are out there, happening, and the calendar is where they are kept once they have finished. Other cities have time. Montavera has the records. A citizen who looks at a page of this copy and knows what day it is has done some work to arrive at that knowledge, and the Index respects the work.

You will find here every day of Year 5 of the 56th Age, in the order in which they are expected to occur. You will find the observances, which are compulsory, and the festivals, which are also compulsory and more enjoyable. You will find the white moon, which keeps the almanac, and a column for the black moon, which keeps nothing. You will find, in the margins, a small struck coin on fourteen days. The coin means exact change. It does not mean anything else.

You will also find my notes. They are analysis. The year has not happened yet; I have simply prepared for it more thoroughly than it has prepared for me. Where my notes describe a day accurately, the day will confirm them. Where they do not, the day will be amended.

Correspondents who keep an outside calendar will find, at the front, the form for converting one into the other. It is exact. It works in both directions and in any year. The outside drifts. We do not.

Keep the copy dry. Keep it shut on Shroudsday. If you lose the date, it is the date on the last document anyone filed.

Yours in disservice,

— The Headmaster

HOW TO READ THIS COPY · I

The Marks

Every mark in this copy means one thing. The Index has checked.

THE DAY

FEASTDAY Hendiber 1 DAY 1 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Headmaster's hand, in scarf-green.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

The day's name, date and number, in the city's Chronicle form. The italic line beneath is the weekly custom: what the city keeps on that day of every week. The ruled lines are yours.

GD-1 · ED-1. One good deed and one evil deed, per citizen, per day, due at Window 4 by midnight. The Council's first decree has never been repealed. A good deed performed for the paperwork counts as the evil deed.

☐ Filed ☐ Pending ☐ Disputed. The day's standing. Tick one when the day is over. Most days are Filed. Some are not.

FILED The Filing. Overnight, from midnight to four, the day is filed. The box is empty in this copy because Year 5 has not been filed yet. You may stamp it yourself.

THE MOONS

● new · ◑ first quarter · ○ full · ◐ last quarter. The white moon keeps the almanac: new on the 4th, full on the 18th, changing its phase every Moonsday. Fourteen moon-walks a year; three of them in Zipsdier.

The black moon has a column on every month page. It is printed empty. The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

HOW TO READ THIS COPY · II

THE STAMPS

THE PRICING A festival, stamped in red. Each month has one stamped on its plate; every festival is stamped in its day.

AMENDED: the foregoing Shroudsday was a

An amendment, in red, beneath the original. Dates are never corrected. They are amended, and the original remains true for anyone who read it first. A copy of Year 5 has no amendments yet. The year has not happened.

An amendment is not a correction. A correction would mean we were wrong.

The festival is stamped in red. Red is for the festival, and for amendments. The festival has never been amended.

THE MARGINS

⊘ The struck coin. Exact change advised; see the clipping, p. 38.

The coin means exact change. It does not mean anything else. Carry the change.

▲ Quarter Day. Every ninety-eight days: the approved history is revised, the Printing Company burns its misprints, and the Petition to Relocate the Elder is decided.

⊥ Disputed. Every 13th is a Whispersday. On three of them this year the Council has declared it a Moonsday by emergency decree, and the day is filed Disputed. The moon holds the other copy.

THE WEEK

The week begins on Moonsday. The month begins on Feastday. The Bureau has never been asked to reconcile these facts and has not volunteered. Each spread in this copy runs as the CAL-1 grid runs: Feastday to Ghoulday, four to a month.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Each spread prints one outside date, on its Feastday, at the foot of the left-hand page. Count along the row for the rest. Form B-1, from p. 16, converts any day in any year.

TIME, AS FILED · I

The Three Times

Elapsed · Recorded · Reversed

Other cities have time. Montavera has the records. A day here is not something that happens; it is something that is filed. It opens when the Debtal Clinics unlock their doors and closes at midnight, when Window 4 stops accepting forms. In between, it is whatever the paperwork says it was.

> When they disagree: recorded wins in every office. Elapsed wins in every body. Reversed is owed to someone.

Twists. A Twist rewinds one minute and never changes a date. Nobody recalculates the calendar.

READING A DATELINE

Moonsday, Zipsdier 81, 56th Age

FORM	HOW IT IS WRITTEN · WHERE IT IS REQUIRED
Chronicle	As above. Papers, notices, edicts, gravestones.
Legal	Moonsday, the 81st of Zipsdier, Year 4 of the 56th Age. Contracts, leases, anything a court will read.
Full	…of the 56th Age, Current Iteration. Records whose authenticity is in question.
Shorthand	Mo·Zp·81·56. Internal; every office abbreviates differently.

Open-year agreements. A contract without its year is valid in every year. It is popular with the Bone Bank and with nobody who has signed one.

Asking the time. In Vernac you file a request: "Requesting: the date. And which Age you're filing under." Asking bluntly is how auditors talk. In Sélanar, *tel* is time and also a minute; *witel* is a Twist.

AMEND. NEVER CORRECT.

Dates are never corrected. They are amended, beneath the original, in red, and the original remains true for anyone who read it first.

TIME, AS FILED · II

The Day

Six watches · three errands · two deeds

Twenty-four hours, sixty minutes, sixty seconds. The city saw no reason to improve on this, and has instead improved on what happens during them.

WATCH	HOURS	THE CITY AT THIS WATCH
Dawn-ish	04–08	Debtal Clinics open. The dying are punctual. Moonsday: the Sneaker Reliquary's buyback window.
Counter Hours	08–12	Every counter opens. Amnesty Hour at 09:00: one hour, one new name, no questions.
Long Afternoon	12–16	The stamp goes to lunch. Edicts are read. Pay phones ring because balances change. At noon, the Noon Paradox.
Dusk	16–20	Counters close. At sundown the Streets pass from False Identities to the Family Syndicate.
Night	20–24	Obligators make their rounds. Midnight: deeds due, Mandates enforced, the Council leaps.
The Filing	00–04	Oscu letters go out. The night ferries cross. The day is filed. It always takes all night.

The city does not ring hours. It opens and closes.

THE DEEDS · FORM GD-1 / ED-1

```
CITIZEN _______ DATE _______
GOOD DEED   returned a dropped glove to its owner
EVIL DEED    kept the other glove
A GOOD DEED PERFORMED FOR THE PAPERWORK COUNTS AS THE EVIL DEED. CARBON RETAINED.
```

The Council's first decree has never been repealed: one good deed and one evil deed, per citizen, per day. Window 4 is closed on Shroudsday. File anyway. The Obligators come at night, ledger chained to the wrist, and apologize for the hour.

Pre-logging. In the Tomorrow Wards, a day ahead, deeds may be pre-logged without Form G-2. Elsewhere, Form G-2 is required.

THE INCH OF TIME

The Bureau also measures time in inches. Its instruments are certified and wrong; the accurate measurements are taken in Sirenia Lake, by a monstar who specializes in astrophysics, with the glasses. DECLINED: what an inch of time is. CONFIRMED: that it can be owed.

THE WEEK

Three Rules, Four Customs

The week has seven days and begins on Moonsday. The month begins on Feastday. The Bureau has never been asked to reconcile these facts and has not volunteered.

Moonsday · THE CLOSE

Rule. At sundown, any clock with exactly one empty box fills, unless a citizen spent a scene or an errand acting on it that day. Anyone may declare the apocalypse by filing Form APOK-1 before sundown. Things end on Moonsday. It is the city's preferred day for it.

Twinsday · THE DUPLICATE

Rule. An agreement struck on Twinsday is filed twice, one copy to each party, and the copies drift. Both are binding. In Vernac, Zipdsday. The Laundromat Cafe pours a cup for the regular who never orders it; the cup is always drunk.

Whispersday · THE OVERHEARD

Custom. Unofficial positions, overheard in the washroom. The Gurunkin compare notes. Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle.

Ghoulday · THE CIRCLE

Custom. Tea below; the Under-Market receives callers who bring a teapot. The soil court sits. Old signatures turn up on current forms.

Feastday · THE OPENING

Custom. The month opens here. The Church's bake sale. The week's Merriment Mandates. Debts. Rent, on the 1st.

Shroudsday · THE CLOSED WINDOW

Rule. Window 4 is closed. Most counters are. The forms are due regardless. Anything done on Shroudsday reaches the city's attention one day late.

Sunsday · THE SECOND LOOK

Custom. The Temple of the Suns opens early and stays bright late. The Arkademia's public disputation. Trash Day: all trash is celebrated.

> Moonsday ends it. Twinsday doubles it. Shroudsday hides it.

THE YEAR

Twelve Months, One of Them Long

Eleven months of twenty-eight days; Zipsdier of eighty-four. Every month opens on a Feastday, the year is exactly fifty-six weeks, and so every date falls on the same weekday every year.

#	MONTH	DAYS	FOLK SEASON	AS THE INDEX FILES IT
1	Hendiber	1–28	Early summer	The year opens. New pages, old ink
2	Sunmanber	29–56	High summer	The Solstice Picnic. The Music Festival
3	Zipsdier	57–140	Late summer-autumn	The long month. Everything is due
4	Mourndier	141–168	Late autumn	The mortality rolls are read
5	Gloomber	169–196	Early winter	The Guild of Gloom's month
6	Teadber	197–224	Winter	Tea season below
7	Quillder	225–252	Winter	The Recopying. Something is lost
8	Frostder	253–280	Deep winter	The longest night. Starlight
9	Shroudber	281–308	Late winter, fog	Leases end
10	Chandber	309–336	Early spring	The Forecast of sanctioned calamity
11	Feastber	337–364	Spring	The Cornic Confluence
12	Oldber	365–392	Late spring	The Season of the Old Ones

Zipsdier is eighty-four days, in three filings of twenty-eight, because Zipsdier is filing season: every office in the city buried, every queue doubled, every clerk performing the small, continuous miracle of not screaming. A deadline set in Zipsdier is a deadline set in mud.

WEEKDAY OF ANY DATE

Divide the day of the month by 7 and keep the remainder: 1 Feastday · 2 Shroudsday · 3 Sunsday · 4 Moonsday · 5 Twinsday · 6 Whispersday · 0 Ghoulday. Zipsdier 81 leaves 4. Moonsday, as the dateline requires.

CHOOSING A DATE

A thing meant to end falls on a Moonsday. A deal meant to be disputed is signed on a Twinsday. A crime meant to go unnoticed happens on a Shroudsday. A debt is due on a Feastday.

The Bureau recognizes two seasons: Zipsdier, and the remainder.

THE NAMES OF THE MONTHS

The Names of the Months

Three accounts are on file. They are printed here in the order they were received.

Hendiber opens the book with a hand,
Sunmanber picnics exactly as planned.
Zipsdier zips every mouth in the queue,
three months in one, and the forms are still due.
Mourndier reads out the roll, and the bill;
Gloomber stays gloomy, and gloomier still.
Teadber pours tea for the ones from below;
Quillder recopies, and loses a row.
Frostder keeps Starlight, the longest of night;
Shroudber brings leases, in fog, out of sight.
Chandber foretells what the weather won't do;
Feastber eats everything. Oldber eats you.
Twenty-eight days, every month but the one:
Zipsdier, eighty-four, and it's never quite done.

Traditional. Taught before the forms. Recited at the Zipsdier queue to pass the time, which it does not.

AS FILED BY THE BUREAU

In the first year of the city's keeping, three offices each claimed the right to name the months. Each was correct, and the matter was settled the only way the Bureau settles a matter in which everyone is correct: every claim was approved.

The Bureau named eight months for what each one is for, and stamped them with its own mark, -BER: *by the Bureau*. These are Hendiber, Sunmanber, Gloomber, Teadber, Shroudber, Chandber, Feastber, and Oldber.

The Office of Deadlines claimed the two months in which the city pays: Zipsdier, when every filing falls due, and Mourndier, when grief is assessed and invoiced. It stamped them with its mark, -DIER, from the old clerical word for *due*.

The Office of Order claimed the two months in which the record is kept cold and copied clean: Quillder, the Recopying, and Frostder, the longest night. It stamped them with its mark, -DER, which is short for *order* and has never been longer.

All twelve names were filed at the same moment, by the three offices together, so that no office could be said to have named a month first. Because they were filed together, no name can be amended without amending all twelve, and no office has been willing to begin. The names have therefore stood since the first year, unchanged and correctly spelled.

Zipsdier is eighty-four days because the Office of Deadlines was given a month, and took three.

AS TOLD ON THE STREET

Ask anyone on the Streets and they'll tell you. There were twelve clerks once, back when the city was new and the forms were simpler, and they worked the windows through the first year with nobody to relieve them. One by one, each of them died at the desk, mid-stamp. The city was grateful, in its way. It named a month after each of them.

The trouble was the plaques. The plaques were cast in a hurry, by a firm that billed by the letter, and every name came out wrong. Hen Dibbler became Hendiber. Old Ber became Oldber. Nobody can agree what Zipsdier was meant to be, but everybody agrees he would have hated it.

The city never fixed them. The plaques were already paid for.

Look closely at a month and you can still see the clerk in it. That's why Zipsdier runs long. He always did stay late.

AS SUNG IN SÉLANAR

In the old tongue there is no word for *month*. There is *morilvas*: a moon-walk. A month is one walk the white moon takes across the city, from new to full to new again, changing its step every Moonsday. Twenty-eight days is how long the walk is.

The old songs do not name the walks. They tell what happened on them: the walk on which the year opened, the walk of the picnic, the walk of grief, the walk of tea below. The city's month-names are what those songs became after the clerks heard them and wrote them down. They are not translations. They are filings.

Zipsdier, the songs say, is three walks the moon was made to take in a row, without being allowed to stop at the end of any of them. That is why it is long. That is why the moon, in Zipsdier, looks tired.

This account is not filed by any office. It is only sung.

THE INDEX'S RULING

WHY THE MONTHS BEAR THESE NAMES IS DECLINED.

Every name is spelled correctly.

FORM B-1 · PART I

Concordance for Correspondents Elsewhere

The city files arrivals. Correspondents who keep an outside calendar need their dates converted. This is the form for it.

THE ANCHOR

Moonsday, Zipsdier 81, Year 4 of the 56th Age
is, outside,
Monday 26 October 2026.

Every figure in this form is computed from that one day. The Index has checked.

THE WEEKDAY LOCK

Both weeks are seven days long, so the two calendars keep step for ever. Your outside weekday tells you the Montaveran weekday at once, in any year:

MONTAVERAN	OUTSIDE
Feastday	Friday
Shroudsday	Saturday
Sunsday	Sunday
Moonsday	Monday
Twinsday	[redacted]
Whispersday	Wednesday
Ghoulday	Thursday

Twinsday is the day between Monday and Wednesday.

FORM B-1 · PART I, CONTINUED

"WHAT DAY IS IT HERE?" · TWO MOVES

1 · The weekday, at once. Your outside weekday gives the Montaveran weekday, by the lock. No table is needed, in any year.

2 · The date, from the Year Keys. Run the four steps of Part II (p. 18) on today's outside date. You need the Year Key table (pp. 24-27) and the Day Number table (p. 28), and nothing else.

THE SHORTCUT, INSIDE YEAR 5 ONLY

Between Friday 9 July 2027 and Thursday 3 August 2028, you may skip move 2. Open the spread for the current week and count along from its Feastday strip, at the foot of the left-hand page.

Outside Year 5, the spreads in this copy are a record of a year, not a clock. The Year Keys are the clock.

WHAT THIS FORM WILL DO

Convert any outside date to its Montaveran date, and back again, in any year from 1900 to 2099, and beyond with a little arithmetic (p. 29). It will find your Filing Day. It will find a day you are waiting for. It will not tell you what to feel about either.

Citizens who know what day it is have done the work. Citizens who do not have done other work.

FORM B-1 · PART II

Finding Any Day

Correspondents convert dates in order to keep them, to mourn them, to despise them, to wait for them, and to mock them. The Bureau has observed all five. It processes them identically.

THE METHOD · FOUR STEPS

1 · Find the Year Key. Look up the outside year in the Year Key table (pp. 24-27). Note the Year Key, and the Montaveran Year shown beside it.

2 · Find the day number. Look up the outside day and month in the Day Number table (p. 28). Use the leap-year column if the outside year has a 29 February.

3 · Add, then take away one. Year Key + day number − 1. If the answer is 392 or more, subtract 392 and add 1 to the Montaveran Year. One subtraction is always enough.

4 · Find the month. In the Month Start table, find the largest start number that is not bigger than your answer. That row is your month. Your answer minus the start number, plus 1, is your day.

THE CHECK

Divide your Montaveran day by 7 and keep the remainder: 1 Feastday · 2 Shroudsday · 3 Sunsday · 4 Moonsday · 5 Twinsday · 6 Whispersday · 0 Ghoulday. That weekday must match the outside weekday, by the lock (p. 16). If it does not, you have made a slip. Go back one step.

If your answer is larger than 392, you have counted a year twice. This is common. It is still wrong.

FORM B-1 · PART II, CONTINUED

THE MONTH START TABLE

MONTH	STARTS AT	
Hendiber	0	
Sunmanber	28	
Zipsdier	56	runs to 139; Zipsdier's day = answer − 55
Mourndier	140	
Gloomber	168	
Teadber	196	
Quillder	224	
Frostder	252	
Shroudber	280	
Chandber	308	
Feastber	336	
Oldber	364	

ON THE YEAR

The method gives a Montaveran Year only for dates inside the 56th Age, which opened on Friday 24 March 2023, Year 1. For anything earlier it gives the day and the month, and of the year says only this:

of an earlier volume; the Index declines.

Ages are not years. An Age is a volume, and the Index does not convert volumes. The year 2023 is the one row that straddles the volume: its Year column reads **"– / 1"**. Before the wrap at step 3 the date is of an earlier volume; after it, Year 1.

> Worked, briefly. 14 March 1990. Year Key 17; day number 73. 17 + 73 − 1 = 89. Zipsdier starts at 56; Zipsdier's day is 89 − 55 = 34. Whispersday, Zipsdier 34, of an earlier volume. Check: 34 ÷ 7 leaves 6, Whispersday; the outside day was a Wednesday. ✓

FORM B-1 · PART III

Finding Your Filing Day

The city keeps no birthdays. It keeps the date a file was opened. The correspondent's equivalent is the Montaveran date of the day they were born.

Born 14 March 1990 — Wednesday

Year Key 17; day number 73. 17 + 73 − 1 = 89. Zipsdier starts at 56; the day is 89 − 55 = 34.

Whispersday, Zipsdier 34, ***of an earlier volume.*** Check: 34 ÷ 7 leaves 6. ✓

The ordinary case, landing in long Zipsdier.

Born 29 February 2008 — Friday

Year Key 319; day number 60. 319 + 60 − 1 = 378. Oldber starts at 364; the day is 378 − 364 + 1 = 15.

Feastday, Oldber 15, ***of an earlier volume.*** Check: 15 ÷ 7 leaves 1. ✓

A birthday that sometimes is has a Filing Day that always is.

Born 3 October 2015 — Saturday

Year Key 132; day number 276. 132 + 276 − 1 = 407. That is 392 or more: 407 − 392 = 15. Hendiber starts at 0; the day is 15 − 0 + 1 = 16.

Shroudsday, Hendiber 16, ***of an earlier volume.*** Check: 16 ÷ 7 leaves 2. ✓

A citizen of the outside, born in an earlier volume.

Born 20 July 2027 — [redacted]

Year Key 203; day number 201. 203 + 201 − 1 = 403. That is 392 or more: 403 − 392 = 11. Hendiber starts at 0; the day is 11 − 0 + 1 = 12.

Twinsday, Hendiber 12, ***Year 5.*** Check: 12 ÷ 7 leaves 5. ✓

A birth inside this copy's own year. The year is given.

FORM B-1 · PART III, CONTINUED

YOUR OWN

Born, outside _____ Weekday _____

Year Key _____ Day number _____ Key + number − 1 = _____

Subtract 392? ☐ yes ☐ no Answer _____ Month _____

Day _____ Check: day ÷ 7 leaves _____ = _____

My Filing Day: _____

KEPT ON EACH CITIZEN'S FILING DAY

To Whom It May Concern

The city keeps no birthdays. It keeps the date a file was opened. On your Filing Day you are officially Pending for the day. Your debts cannot find you, and officially neither can your friends. They throw the party anyway, addressed to no one. The cake reads TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. One line of your own file may be read, for one tooth (F, Almanac sheet 8).

- The Addressed Cake. Always TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, iced in capitals. Spelling your name on it would make you un-Pending and expose you to your debts.
- The Race. Gifts are addressed the same way, and anyone present may claim them, so the guest of honor must race the guests to their own presents. Guests, by custom, run slowly. Not too slowly.
- The One Line. At the end of the evening the guest of honor pays one tooth and reads one line of their own file aloud. Whatever it says is toasted.

At the table: the line read aloud this year is wrong, and it is a line that matters.

A Filing Day falls on the same Montaveran date every year, and on the same weekday for ever. Your outside birthday does not. It walks through the Montaveran year, about twenty-seven days later each time. Most years hold it once. Some hold it twice. See pp. 30–33.

Correspondents whose outside birthday sometimes is will find that their Filing Day always is. The Bureau regards this as an improvement.

THE HOUSEHOLD

NAME	BORN, OUTSIDE	FILING DAY

FORM B-1 · PART IV

Three More Days

Today, an anniversary, and a day waited for. The same machine, in both directions.

1 · TODAY · FORWARD

Wednesday 14 November 2029. Year Key 150; day number 318. 150 + 318 − 1 = 467. That is 392 or more: 467 − 392 = 75. Zipsdier starts at 56; the day is 75 − 55 = 20.

Whispersday, Zipsdier 20, Year 7 of the 56th Age. Check: 20 ÷ 7 leaves 6, Whispersday; the outside day is Wednesday. ✓

That is Zipsdier. Any office errand will cost two.

2 · AN ANNIVERSARY · FORWARD, THEN BACK

Saturday 12 September 2015, a day somebody keeps. Year Key 132; day number 255. 132 + 255 − 1 = 386. Oldber starts at 364; the day is 386 − 364 + 1 = 23.

Shroudsday, Oldber 23, of an earlier volume.

Its Montaveran anniversary falls on Oldber 23 every year, and on a Shroudsday for ever. Outside, it walks: in Year 5 it falls on Saturday 29 July 2028, and in Year 6 on Saturday 25 August 2029, by the reverse method opposite.

The date comes back to the same weekday for ever. Filed under Weather, with the rest of the year.

FORM B-1 · PART IV, CONTINUED

3 · A DAY WAITED FOR · IN REVERSE

When does the Festival of Starlight, Frostder 18, fall in Year 9?

1 · Find the year's first day. In the Drift table (pp. 32-33), find Year 9's Hendiber 1: Friday 24 October 2031, outside day number 297.

2 · Find the position. Frostder starts at 252, so Frostder 18 is 252 + 18 − 1 = 269.

3 · Add. 297 + 269 = 566. That is more than the 365 days in 2031, so subtract 365: 201, in 2032. If the outside year is a leap year, subtract 366. If it is still too big, subtract again, into the next year.

4 · Read it back. Find day 201 in the Day Number table, leap column, for 2032: 19 July.

Monday 19 July 2032. Check: Frostder 18 is a Moonsday; the outside day is Monday. ✓

Starlight, Year 9. Diary it now. The Festival must go on, and so must you.

YOUR OWN

The day _____ Year _____

Hendiber 1 of that Year: day number _____ in _____

Position: month start _____ + day _____ − 1 = _____

Sum _____ − days in year _____ = _____ Outside: _____

FORM B-1 · THE YEAR KEYS · 1900–1949

The Year Keys

OUTSIDE YEAR	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERAN YEAR, 1 JAN	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERA
1900	**73**	— 1925	**188**	—
1901	**46**	— 1926	**161**	—
1902	**19**	— 1927	**134**	—
1903	**384**	— 1928	**107**	—
1904	**357**	— 1929	**81**	—
1905	**331**	— 1930	**54**	—
1906	**304**	— 1931	**27**	—
1907	**277**	— 1932	**0**	—
1908	**250**	— 1933	**366**	—
1909	**224**	— 1934	**339**	—
1910	**197**	— 1935	**312**	—
1911	**170**	— 1936	**285**	—
1912	**143**	— 1937	**259**	—
1913	**117**	— 1938	**232**	—
1914	**90**	— 1939	**205**	—
1915	**63**	— 1940	**178**	—
1916	**36**	— 1941	**152**	—
1917	**10**	— 1942	**125**	—
1918	**375**	— 1943	**98**	—
1919	**348**	— 1944	**71**	—
1920	**321**	— 1945	**45**	—
1921	**295**	— 1946	**18**	—
1922	**268**	— 1947	**383**	—
1923	**241**	— 1948	**356**	—
1924	**214**	— 1949	**330**	—

The Year Key is the Montaveran position of 1 January of that outside year, counted from 0 at Hendiber 1. Add the day number, take away one, and read the month (p. 19).

Year Keys are accurate to the day. Citizens are accurate to a lesser degree.

FORM B-1 · THE YEAR KEYS · 1950–1999

The Year Keys

OUTSIDE YEAR	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERAN YEAR, 1 JAN	YEAR KEY	MONTAVE
1950	**303**	— 1975	**26**	—
1951	**276**	— 1976	**391**	—
1952	**249**	— 1977	**365**	—
1953	**223**	— 1978	**338**	—
1954	**196**	— 1979	**311**	—
1955	**169**	— 1980	**284**	—
1956	**142**	— 1981	**258**	—
1957	**116**	— 1982	**231**	—
1958	**89**	— 1983	**204**	—
1959	**62**	— 1984	**177**	—
1960	**35**	— 1985	**151**	—
1961	**9**	— 1986	**124**	—
1962	**374**	— 1987	**97**	—
1963	**347**	— 1988	**70**	—
1964	**320**	— 1989	**44**	—
1965	**294**	— 1990	**17**	—
1966	**267**	— 1991	**382**	—
1967	**240**	— 1992	**355**	—
1968	**213**	— 1993	**329**	—
1969	**187**	— 1994	**302**	—
1970	**160**	— 1995	**275**	—
1971	**133**	— 1996	**248**	—
1972	**106**	— 1997	**222**	—
1973	**80**	— 1998	**195**	—
1974	**53**	— 1999	**168**	—

The Year Key is the Montaveran position of 1 January of that outside year, counted from 0 at Hendiber 1. Add the day number, take away one, and read the month (p. 19).

If your answer is larger than 392, you have counted a year twice. This is common. It is still wrong.

FORM B-1 · THE YEAR KEYS · 2000–2049

The Year Keys

OUTSIDE YEAR	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERAN YEAR, 1 JAN	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERA
2000	**141**	— 2025	**257**	2
2001	**115**	— 2026	**230**	3
2002	**88**	— 2027	**203**	4
2003	**61**	— 2028	**176**	5
2004	**34**	— 2029	**150**	6
2005	**8**	— 2030	**123**	7
2006	**373**	— 2031	**96**	8
2007	**346**	— 2032	**69**	9
2008	**319**	— 2033	**43**	10
2009	**293**	— 2034	**16**	11
2010	**266**	— 2035	**381**	11
2011	**239**	— 2036	**354**	12
2012	**212**	— 2037	**328**	13
2013	**186**	— 2038	**301**	14
2014	**159**	— 2039	**274**	15
2015	**132**	— 2040	**247**	16
2016	**105**	— 2041	**221**	17
2017	**79**	— 2042	**194**	18
2018	**52**	— 2043	**167**	19
2019	**25**	— 2044	**140**	20
2020	**390**	— 2045	**114**	21
2021	**364**	— 2046	**87**	22
2022	**337**	— 2047	**60**	23
2023	**310**	— 2048	**33**	24
2024	**283**	1 2049	**7**	25

The Year Key is the Montaveran position of 1 January of that outside year, counted from 0 at Hendiber 1. Add the day number, take away one, and read the month (p. 19).

A key is a key. It opens one year at a time.

FORM B-1 · THE YEAR KEYS · 2050–2099

The Year Keys

OUTSIDE YEAR	YEAR KEY	MONTAVERAN YEAR, 1 JAN	YEAR KEY	MONTAVE
2050	**372**	25 2075	**95**	49
2051	**345**	26 2076	**68**	50
2052	**318**	27 2077	**42**	51
2053	**292**	28 2078	**15**	52
2054	**265**	29 2079	**380**	52
2055	**238**	30 2080	**353**	53
2056	**211**	31 2081	**327**	54
2057	**185**	32 2082	**300**	55
2058	**158**	33 2083	**273**	56
2059	**131**	34 2084	**246**	57
2060	**104**	35 2085	**220**	58
2061	**78**	36 2086	**193**	59
2062	**51**	37 2087	**166**	60
2063	**24**	38 2088	**139**	61
2064	**389**	38 2089	**113**	62
2065	**363**	39 2090	**86**	63
2066	**336**	40 2091	**59**	64
2067	**309**	41 2092	**32**	65
2068	**282**	42 2093	**6**	66
2069	**256**	43 2094	**371**	66
2070	**229**	44 2095	**344**	67
2071	**202**	45 2096	**317**	68
2072	**175**	46 2097	**291**	69
2073	**149**	47 2098	**264**	70
2074	**122**	48 2099	**237**	71

The Year Key is the Montaveran position of 1 January of that outside year, counted from 0 at Hendiber 1. Add the day number, take away one, and read the month (p. 19).

The table ends in 2099. The year does not. Continue at your own authority.

FORM B-1 · DAY NUMBERS

Day Numbers

The outside day of the year. Black for an ordinary year; red after the slash for a leap year, from March on. 29 February is day 60 in a leap year.

DAY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	32	60 /61	91 /92	121 /122	152 /153	182 /183	213 /214	244 /245	274 /275	305 /306	335 /336
2	2	33	61 /62	92 /93	122 /123	153 /154	183 /184	214 /215	245 /246	275 /276	306 /307	336 /337
3	3	34	62 /63	93 /94	123 /124	154 /155	184 /185	215 /216	246 /247	276 /277	307 /308	337 /338
4	4	35	63 /64	94 /95	124 /125	155 /156	185 /186	216 /217	247 /248	277 /278	308 /309	338 /339
5	5	36	64 /65	95 /96	125 /126	156 /157	186 /187	217 /218	248 /249	278 /279	309 /310	339 /340
6	6	37	65 /66	96 /97	126 /127	157 /158	187 /188	218 /219	249 /250	279 /280	310 /311	340 /341
7	7	38	66 /67	97 /98	127 /128	158 /159	188 /189	219 /220	250 /251	280 /281	311 /312	341 /342
8	8	39	67 /68	98 /99	128 /129	159 /160	189 /190	220 /221	251 /252	281 /282	312 /313	342 /343
9	9	40	68 /69	99 /100	129 /130	160 /161	190 /191	221 /222	252 /253	282 /283	313 /314	343 /344
10	10	41	69 /70	100 /101	130 /131	161 /162	191 /192	222 /223	253 /254	283 /284	314 /315	344 /345
11	11	42	70 /71	101 /102	131 /132	162 /163	192 /193	223 /224	254 /255	284 /285	315 /316	345 /346
12	12	43	71 /72	102 /103	132 /133	163 /164	193 /194	224 /225	255 /256	285 /286	316 /317	346 /347
13	13	44	72 /73	103 /104	133 /134	164 /165	194 /195	225 /226	256 /257	286 /287	317 /318	347 /348
14	14	45	73 /74	104 /105	134 /135	165 /166	195 /196	226 /227	257 /258	287 /288	318 /319	348 /349
15	15	46	74 /75	105 /106	135 /136	166 /167	196 /197	227 /228	258 /259	288 /289	319 /320	349 /350
16	16	47	75 /76	106 /107	136 /137	167 /168	197 /198	228 /229	259 /260	289 /290	320 /321	350 /351
17	17	48	76 /77	107 /108	137 /138	168 /169	198 /199	229 /230	260 /261	290 /291	321 /322	351 /352
18	18	49	77 /78	108 /109	138 /139	169 /170	199 /200	230 /231	261 /262	291 /292	322 /323	352 /353
19	19	50	78 /79	109 /110	139 /140	170 /171	200 /201	231 /232	262 /263	292 /293	323 /324	353 /354
20	20	51	79 /80	110 /111	140 /141	171 /172	201 /202	232 /233	263 /264	293 /294	324 /325	354 /355
21	21	52	80 /81	111 /112	141 /142	172 /173	202 /203	233 /234	264 /265	294 /295	325 /326	355 /356
22	22	53	81 /82	112 /113	142 /143	173 /174	203 /204	234 /235	265 /266	295 /296	326 /327	356 /357
23	23	54	82 /83	113 /114	143 /144	174 /175	204 /205	235 /236	266 /267	296 /297	327 /328	357 /358
24	24	55	83 /84	114 /115	144 /145	175 /176	205 /206	236 /237	267 /268	297 /298	328 /329	358 /359
25	25	56	84 /85	115 /116	145 /146	176 /177	206 /207	237 /238	268 /269	298 /299	329 /330	359 /360
26	26	57	85 /86	116 /117	146 /147	177 /178	207 /208	238 /239	269 /270	299 /300	330 /331	360 /361
27	27	58	86 /87	117 /118	147 /148	178 /179	208 /209	239 /240	270 /271	300 /301	331 /332	361 /362
28	28	59	87 /88	118 /119	148 /149	179 /180	209 /210	240 /241	271 /272	301 /302	332 /333	362 /363
29	29	60[L]	88 /89	119 /120	149 /150	180 /181	210 /211	241 /242	272 /273	302 /303	333 /334	363 /364
30	30		89 /90	120 /121	150 /151	181 /182	211 /212	242 /243	273 /274	303 /304	334 /335	364 /365
31	31		90 /91		151 /152		212 /213	243 /244		304 /305		365 /366

FORM B-1 · SCOPE

Beyond the Tables

The tables in this form run from 1900 to 2099 because a book has to stop somewhere. The year does not. The Montaveran year has been three hundred and ninety-two days for as long as the Bureau has kept it, and it will be three hundred and ninety-two days after the last row of these tables has stopped being useful. A determined correspondent may continue the tables on their own authority. The Bureau will accept their figures on the same terms on which it accepts all figures.

FORWARD ONE YEAR

Next year's Year Key = this year's Key + the number of days in this outside year (365, or 366 in a leap year). If the answer is 392 or more, subtract 392, and add 1 to the Montaveran Year.

> Example: 2099's Key is 237. 2099 has 365 days. 237 + 365 = 602; less 392 = 210, the Key for 2100, which opens in Year 72.

BACK ONE YEAR

Last year's Key = this year's Key − the number of days in last year. If the answer is below 0, add 392.

LEAP YEARS

Leap years follow the outside calendar's own rule, which is the outside calendar's business. 2100 is not a leap year.

THE DRIFT, FORWARD

To carry the Drift table past Year 72, add 392 days to the last Hendiber 1 and read the outside date. Every Hendiber 1 is a Friday. This has not been arranged. It simply is.

The table ends in 2099. The year does not. Continue at your own authority.

FORM B-1 · YEAR 5 ONLY

Your Birthday in Year 5

No arithmetic. Find your outside birthday; read its Year 5 date. True for this copy's year only. For your Filing Day, see p. 20.

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
1	Glo 9	1	Tea 12	1	Qui 13	1	Fro 16	1	Shr 18	1	Cha 21
2	Glo 10	2	Tea 13	2	Qui 14	2	Fro 17	2	Shr 19	2	Cha 22
3	Glo 11	3	Tea 14	3	Qui 15	3	Fro 18	3	Shr 20	3	Cha 23
4	Glo 12	4	Tea 15	4	Qui 16	4	Fro 19	4	Shr 21	4	Cha 24
5	Glo 13	5	Tea 16	5	Qui 17	5	Fro 20	5	Shr 22	5	Cha 25
6	Glo 14	6	Tea 17	6	Qui 18	6	Fro 21	6	Shr 23	6	Cha 26
7	Glo 15	7	Tea 18	7	Qui 19	7	Fro 22	7	Shr 24	7	Cha 27
8	Glo 16	8	Tea 19	8	Qui 20	8	Fro 23	8	Shr 25	8	Cha 28
9	Glo 17	9	Tea 20	9	Qui 21	9	Fro 24	9	Shr 26	9	Fea 1
10	Glo 18	10	Tea 21	10	Qui 22	10	Fro 25	10	Shr 27	10	Fea 2
11	Glo 19	11	Tea 22	11	Qui 23	11	Fro 26	11	Shr 28	11	Fea 3
12	Glo 20	12	Tea 23	12	Qui 24	12	Fro 27	12	Cha 1	12	Fea 4
13	Glo 21	13	Tea 24	13	Qui 25	13	Fro 28	13	Cha 2	13	Fea 5
14	Glo 22	14	Tea 25	14	Qui 26	14	Shr 1	14	Cha 3	14	Fea 6
15	Glo 23	15	Tea 26	15	Qui 27	15	Shr 2	15	Cha 4	15	Fea 7
16	Glo 24	16	Tea 27	16	Qui 28	16	Shr 3	16	Cha 5	16	Fea 8
17	Glo 25	17	Tea 28	17	Fro 1	17	Shr 4	17	Cha 6	17	Fea 9
18	Glo 26	18	Qui 1	18	Fro 2	18	Shr 5	18	Cha 7	18	Fea 10
19	Glo 27	19	Qui 2	19	Fro 3	19	Shr 6	19	Cha 8	19	Fea 11
20	Glo 28	20	Qui 3	20	Fro 4	20	Shr 7	20	Cha 9	20	Fea 12
21	Tea 1	21	Qui 4	21	Fro 5	21	Shr 8	21	Cha 10	21	Fea 13
22	Tea 2	22	Qui 5	22	Fro 6	22	Shr 9	22	Cha 11	22	Fea 14
23	Tea 3	23	Qui 6	23	Fro 7	23	Shr 10	23	Cha 12	23	Fea 15
24	Tea 4	24	Qui 7	24	Fro 8	24	Shr 11	24	Cha 13	24	Fea 16
25	Tea 5	25	Qui 8	25	Fro 9	25	Shr 12	25	Cha 14	25	Fea 17
26	Tea 6	26	Qui 9	26	Fro 10	26	Shr 13	26	Cha 15	26	Fea 18
27	Tea 7	27	Qui 10	27	Fro 11	27	Shr 14	27	Cha 16	27	Fea 19
28	Tea 8	28	Qui 11	28	Fro 12	28	Shr 15	28	Cha 17	28	Fea 20
29	Tea 9	29	Qui 12	29	Fro 13	29	Shr 16	29	Cha 18	29	Fea 21
30	Tea 10			30	Fro 14	30	Shr 17	30	Cha 19	30	Fea 22
31	Tea 11			31	Fro 15			31	Cha 20		

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
1	Fea 23	1	**Hen 24 & Old 26**	1	Sun 27	1	Zip 29	1	Zip 60	1	Mou 6
2	Fea 24	2	**Hen 25 & Old 27**	2	Sun 28	2	Zip 30	2	Zip 61	2	Mou 7
3	Fea 25	3	**Hen 26 & Old 28**	3	Zip 1	3	Zip 31	3	Zip 62	3	Mou 8
4	Fea 26	4	Hen 27	4	Zip 2	4	Zip 32	4	Zip 63	4	Mou 9
5	Fea 27	5	Hen 28	5	Zip 3	5	Zip 33	5	Zip 64	5	Mou 10
6	Fea 28	6	Sun 1	6	Zip 4	6	Zip 34	6	Zip 65	6	Mou 11
7	Old 1	7	Sun 2	7	Zip 5	7	Zip 35	7	Zip 66	7	Mou 12
8	Old 2	8	Sun 3	8	Zip 6	8	Zip 36	8	Zip 67	8	Mou 13
9	**Hen 1 & Old 3**	9	Sun 4	9	Zip 7	9	Zip 37	9	Zip 68	9	Mou 14
10	**Hen 2 & Old 4**	10	Sun 5	10	Zip 8	10	Zip 38	10	Zip 69	10	Mou 15
11	**Hen 3 & Old 5**	11	Sun 6	11	Zip 9	11	Zip 39	11	Zip 70	11	Mou 16
12	**Hen 4 & Old 6**	12	Sun 7	12	Zip 10	12	Zip 40	12	Zip 71	12	Mou 17
13	**Hen 5 & Old 7**	13	Sun 8	13	Zip 11	13	Zip 41	13	Zip 72	13	Mou 18
14	**Hen 6 & Old 8**	14	Sun 9	14	Zip 12	14	Zip 42	14	Zip 73	14	Mou 19
15	**Hen 7 & Old 9**	15	Sun 10	15	Zip 13	15	Zip 43	15	Zip 74	15	Mou 20
16	**Hen 8 & Old 10**	16	Sun 11	16	Zip 14	16	Zip 44	16	Zip 75	16	Mou 21
17	**Hen 9 & Old 11**	17	Sun 12	17	Zip 15	17	Zip 45	17	Zip 76	17	Mou 22
18	**Hen 10 & Old 12**	18	Sun 13	18	Zip 16	18	Zip 46	18	Zip 77	18	Mou 23
19	**Hen 11 & Old 13**	19	Sun 14	19	Zip 17	19	Zip 47	19	Zip 78	19	Mou 24
20	**Hen 12 & Old 14**	20	Sun 15	20	Zip 18	20	Zip 48	20	Zip 79	20	Mou 25
21	**Hen 13 & Old 15**	21	Sun 16	21	Zip 19	21	Zip 49	21	Zip 80	21	Mou 26
22	**Hen 14 & Old 16**	22	Sun 17	22	Zip 20	22	Zip 50	22	Zip 81	22	Mou 27
23	**Hen 15 & Old 17**	23	Sun 18	23	Zip 21	23	Zip 51	23	Zip 82	23	Mou 28
24	**Hen 16 & Old 18**	24	Sun 19	24	Zip 22	24	Zip 52	24	Zip 83	24	Glo 1
25	**Hen 17 & Old 19**	25	Sun 20	25	Zip 23	25	Zip 53	25	Zip 84	25	Glo 2
26	**Hen 18 & Old 20**	26	Sun 21	26	Zip 24	26	Zip 54	26	Mou 1	26	Glo 3
27	**Hen 19 & Old 21**	27	Sun 22	27	Zip 25	27	Zip 55	27	Mou 2	27	Glo 4
28	**Hen 20 & Old 22**	28	Sun 23	28	Zip 26	28	Zip 56	28	Mou 3	28	Glo 5
29	**Hen 21 & Old 23**	29	Sun 24	29	Zip 27	29	Zip 57	29	Mou 4	29	Glo 6
30	**Hen 22 & Old 24**	30	Sun 25	30	Zip 28	30	Zip 58	30	Mou 5	30	Glo 7
31	**Hen 23 & Old 25**	31	Sun 26			31	Zip 59			31	Glo 8

Born between 9 July and 3 August? Your birthday falls twice in Year 5, once in Hendiber and once in Oldber. 20 July: Twinsday, Hendiber 12, *and* Ghoulday, Oldber 14.

Correspondents filed twice in Year 5 will receive two of everything, including the bill.

29 February 2028 is in Year 5. It is Twinsday, Quillder 12, during the Recopying.

Hen Hendiber · *Sun* Sunmanber · *Zip* Zipsdier · *Mou* Mourndier · *Glo* Gloomber · *Tea* Teadber · *Qui* Quillder · *Fro* Frostder · *Shr* Shroudber · *Cha* Chandber · *Fea* Feastber · *Old* Oldber

FORM B-1 · THE DRIFT

The Drift

A year of 392 days does not sit still against one of 365. The Index does not regard this as a fault. It regards it as the outside's.

The Montaveran New Year walks twenty-six or twenty-seven days later through the outside year, every year. The city does not move. The outside moves under it.

The Long Concordance. Forty-one Montaveran years are forty-four outside years, to within one day and a third. A correspondent who lives long enough will see the two calendars almost meet, once.

An Unfiled Year. Because the Montaveran year is the longer, a Filing Day comes round every 392 days, and now and then an outside year passes without one: about one outside year in fourteen. That year is unfiled for that correspondent. It still happened.

Filed twice. About one Montaveran year in thirteen holds a correspondent's outside birthday twice.

DAYS WAITED FOR

This table is also the reverse table. To find when a Montaveran date falls outside in any Year, take that Year's Hendiber 1 and its day number, and follow Part IV (p. 23).

The outside drifts. We do not.

FORM B-1 · HENDIBER 1 FOR YEARS 1–72 · EVERY ONE A FRIDAY

YEAR	HENDIBER 1, OUTSIDE	YEAR	HENDIBER 1, DAYTSIDE
1	Friday 24 March 2023	37	Friday 11 November 2061
2	Friday 19 April 2024	38	Friday 8 December 2062
3	Friday 16 May 2025	39	Friday 4 January 2064
4	Friday 12 June 2026	40	Friday 30 January 2065
5	Friday 9 July 2027	41	Friday 26 February 2066
6	Friday 4 August 2028	42	Friday 25 March 2067
7	Friday 31 August 2029	43	Friday 20 April 2068
8	Friday 27 September 2030	44	Friday 17 May 2069
9	Friday 24 October 2031	45	Friday 13 June 2070
10	Friday 19 November 2032	46	Friday 10 July 2071
11	Friday 16 December 2033	47	Friday 5 August 2072
12	Friday 12 January 2035	48	Friday 1 September 2073
13	Friday 8 February 2036	49	Friday 28 September 2074
14	Friday 6 March 2037	50	Friday 25 October 2075
15	Friday 2 April 2038	51	Friday 20 November 2076
16	Friday 29 April 2039	52	Friday 17 December 2077
17	Friday 25 May 2040	53	Friday 13 January 2079
18	Friday 21 June 2041	54	Friday 9 February 2080
19	Friday 18 July 2042	55	Friday 7 March 2081
20	Friday 14 August 2043	56	Friday 3 April 2082
21	Friday 9 September 2044	57	Friday 30 April 2083
22	Friday 6 October 2045	58	Friday 26 May 2084
23	Friday 2 November 2046	59	Friday 22 June 2085
24	Friday 29 November 2047	60	Friday 19 July 2086
25	Friday 25 December 2048	61	Friday 15 August 2087
26	Friday 21 January 2050	62	Friday 10 September 2088
27	Friday 17 February 2051	63	Friday 7 October 2089
28	Friday 15 March 2052	64	Friday 3 November 2090
29	Friday 11 April 2053	65	Friday 30 November 2091
30	Friday 8 May 2054	66	Friday 26 December 2092
31	Friday 4 June 2055	67	Friday 22 January 2094
32	Friday 30 June 2056	68	Friday 18 February 2095
33	Friday 27 July 2057	69	Friday 16 March 2096
34	Friday 23 August 2058	70	Friday 12 April 2097
35	Friday 19 September 2059	71	Friday 9 May 2098
36	Friday 15 October 2060	72	Friday 5 June 2099

Covers dates inside Years 1–71 fully, and Year 72 from 5 June 2099. Past that, see p. 29.

THE FILING DAY REGISTER

Filing Days

Filing Days of record, as opened. Citizens wishing to be added may apply. Citizens wishing to be removed may also apply, to a different window.

FEASTDAY, HENDIBER 1	Chook. File opened on the first page. The Index has looked for an earlier one.
TWINSDAY, SUNMANBER 26	Dyna. Entry reads "decided." Filed on a Twinsday, which is the correct day for that.
WHISPERSDAY, SUNMANBER 27	Larkin. File opened during the Festival. Opened quietly. It hummed.
FEASTDAY, ZIPSDIER 64	Dregg. File opened on the day the H-8s open. He receives the first one every year, and tips.
MOONSDAY, MOURNDIER 4	Skolar. Filing Day coincides with the reading of the rolls. He attends both. He is read at one of them.
SHROUDSDAY, GLOOMBER 9	Tam. File opened on a Shroudsday. Nobody noticed. He would like that kept.
TWINSDAY, GLOOMBER 12	Los. File opened on the Duplicate's day, in bars. The Index has transcribed them as prose. He has filed a grievance about the transcription.
GHOULDAY, TEADBER 7	Broosly, called Brooslyguru. File opened in tea season. The tea was at exactly the right temperature. It still is.
SUNSDAY, QUILLDER 3	Ondine Sorrell. File opened during the Recopying, in triplicate: one for the client, one for the record, one for the sister.
SUNSDAY, FROSTDER 17	Mirros. File opened the day before Starlight. He described it the day before that.
GHOULDAY, SHROUDBER 21	Imelda Prosk, Undersecretary for Continuity of Operations. File opened. File continues.
SHROUDSDAY, CHANDBER 2	Oswin Laud. File opened on the day of the Festival of Misaligned Consequences. No programme is filed. Thirty years without an accident.
TWINSDAY, CHANDBER 5	Gornola. File opened in two places at once. One of three readings of this date is correct.
TWINSDAY, FEASTBER 19	Akhia, self-proclaimed. She has filed her Filing Day on three dates. The Index accepts the one on a Twinsday, for consistency.
—	Biscuit. Not filed. The Department has requested it. Tam has the forms.
—	The Excommunicant. Filing Day: not yet.

YOUR OWN, AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S

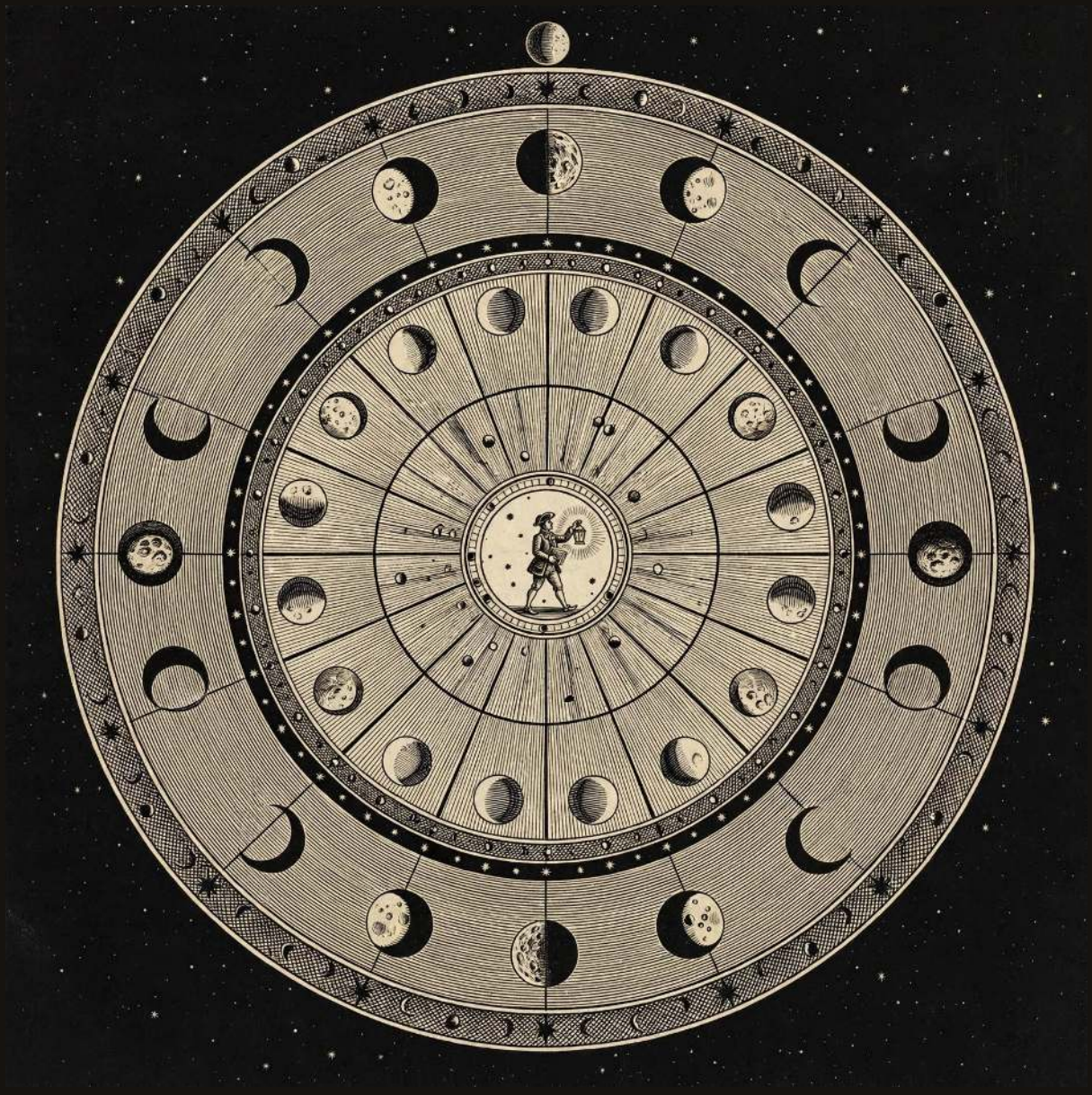
NAME	BORN, OUTSIDE	FILING DAY

OTHER DAYS KEPT, FOR WHATEVER REASON

OUTSIDE DATE	MONTAVERAN DATE	REASON (OPTIONAL)

The Bureau does not ask for the reason column to be filled in.

THE MOON-WALK WHEEL, ENGRAVED



The engraver was given the filed wheel and one instruction: make it beautiful enough to be believed. He walked the rim once for each of the fourteen walks, and signed nothing.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Moon-Walk Wheel



Twelve moon-walks, fifty-six weeks, one year. The wheel turns. The year is filed.

Outer ring: the twelve months, Zipsdier in red. Inner ring: the fourteen walks of the white moon, three of them in Zipsdier. ● the month's festival · ▲ Quarter Day.

Every month is four weeks. Zipsdier is four weeks, three times, and it knows.

THE OBSERVANCES OF YEAR 5

Observance Is Compulsory

Enjoyment is advised. Festivals are in red; filed observances in ink.

MONTAVERAN	OBSERVANCE	OUTSIDE, YEAR 5
Sunsday, Hendiber 3	Thanking of the Stairs	Sunday 11 July 2027
Ghoulday, Hendiber 21	Contest of Excellent Excuses	Thursday 29 July 2027
Feastday, Hendiber 22	Ratification Day	Friday 30 July 2027
Whispersday, Hendiber 27	Everything Is Where It Was Left	Wednesday 4 August 2027
Moonsday, Sunmanber 18	The Solstice Picnic	Monday 23 August 2027
Feastday, Sunmanber 22 – 28	Music Festival	Friday 27 August 2027 - 2 September 2027
Feastday, Zipsdier 1	Filing season opens · any errand needing an office costs two	Friday 3 September 2027
Ghoulday, Zipsdier 42	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided	Thursday 14 October 2027
Moonsday, Zipsdier 46	Reversed Inspection Day	Monday 18 October 2027
Twinsday, Zipsdier 54	Lost-and-Found Lottery	[redacted] 26 October 2027
Moonsday, Zipsdier 60 – 61	Linesong	Monday 1 November 2027 - 2 November 2027
Moonsday, Zipsdier 81	The Council's Closed Session · the year's filings ratified	Monday 22 November 2027
Ghoulday, Zipsdier 84	The Zipsdier Close, midnight · Annual Return, H-8, standing orders, 9-B, census due	Thursday 25 November 2027
Feastday, Mourndier 1	Co-Signing Day	Friday 26 November 2027
Moonsday, Mourndier 4	The mortality rolls are read · the Council grieves and invoices	Monday 29 November 2027
Feastday, Mourndier 15	Bazaar of Second Prices	Friday 10 December 2027
Sunsday, Gloomber 3	The Agencies' annual debate · refereed · both sides lose	Sunday 26 December 2027
Whispersday, Gloomber 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed	Wednesday 5 January 2028
Moonsday, Gloomber 18	The Gloom-Off	Monday 10 January 2028
Feastday, Gloomber 22	The Headmaster's Day Off	Friday 14 January 2028
Shroudsday, Gloomber 23	Second Helpings Day	Saturday 15 January 2028

MONTAVERAN	OBSERVANCE	OUTSIDE, YEAR 5
Ghoulday, Gloomber 28	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided	Thursday 20 January 2028
Feastday, Teadber 1	The Steep	Friday 21 January 2028
Ghoulday, Teadber 14	Father's Day	Thursday 3 February 2028
Ghoulday, Teadber 28, night	As-Filed Night	Thursday 17 February 2028
Twinsday, Quillder 5	Being Your Soul to Work Day	[redacted] 22 February 2028
Whispersday, Quillder 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed	Wednesday 1 March 2028
Feastday, Frostder 8	The Day of Other Places	Friday 24 March 2028
Moonsday, Frostder 18	Festival of Starlight	Monday 3 April 2028
Feastday, Shroudber 1	The Day of Being Right	Friday 14 April 2028
Ghoulday, Shroudber 14	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided	Thursday 27 April 2028
Whispersday, Shroudber 27	Provisional Approval Day	Wednesday 10 May 2028
Ghoulday, Shroudber 28	Lease Night	Thursday 11 May 2028
Feastday, Chandber 1	The Forecast	Friday 12 May 2028
Shroudsday, Chandber 2	Festival of Misaligned Consequences	Saturday 13 May 2028
Whispersday, Chandber 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed	Wednesday 24 May 2028
Feastday, Feastber 1	The Pricing	Friday 9 June 2028
Feastday, Feastber 15 – 28	The Cornic Confluence	Friday 23 June 2028 – 6 July 2028
Shroudsday, Oldber 23 – 24	Appeals Round · Re-Ratification	Saturday 29 July 2028 – 30 July 2028
Ghoulday, Oldber 28	The Turning	Thursday 3 August 2028
Ghoulday, Oldber 28	▲ Quarter Day	Thursday 3 August 2028

KEPT EVERY MONTH

The 1st: rent. The 18th: the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth meet and agree on nothing. The 28th: the In-Transit House auction; Lot 14 is always interesting.

KEPT EVERY DAY

Amnesty Hour at 09:00. The Noon Paradox at 12:00. The Streets flip at sundown, except on one day of the year. Deeds due at midnight. The Filing, midnight to four.

KEPT BY EACH CITIZEN

Their own Filing Day: To Whom It May Concern. See p. 20.

THE SOUL FARMER'S ALMANAC

Planted, Grown, and Sold to the Highest Bidder · Published by the Farmer, Who Is Also the Printer

TUESDAYS, RECKONED FOR THE COMING YEAR

Readers ask how I know when the Tuesdays will fall. I have kept a hundred years of them. I have laid the hundred years over one another the way you lay seed over a field, and where the seed comes up thickest, there is next year's Tuesday. I do not say it is a Tuesday. I say that is where it grows best.

For the coming year I have reckoned fourteen. Where my coin is struck, carry exact change. I do not say why. Those who carried it last year know why, and those who did not have stopped writing to me.

I am right as often as a farmer is right about the weather, which is to say I am right about the weather.

PLANTINGS. *Seed is in the ground in the usual places. Inside some buildings on Town Square. Along several roads. Far outside the reaches of the city, where the soil asks no questions. The Farmer apologises to the kindergarten, and to the child's barber.*

FOR SALE. *Souls, mature, to the highest bidder. Viewing by appointment. No refunds; it is not that kind of crop.*

THE FOURTEEN, RECKONED:

Hendiber 9 · Sunmanber 11 · Zipsdier 19 · Zipsdier 40 · Zipsdier 71 · Mourndier 20 · Gloomber 6 · Teadber 24 · Quillder 15 · Frostder 10 · Shroudber 9 · Chandber 25 · Feastber 7 · Oldber 14.

A hundred years on record. Correct as often as one would expect. The Index will find what it finds. Exact change purchased for fourteen.

Where the farmer's coin is struck in this copy's margins, carry exact change.

THE HEADMASTER'S YEAR

Standing Reminders

For Year 5 of the 56th Age. Annual, therefore permanent.

Form AR-1, the Annual Return	Draft by Zipsdier 77; file by the 83rd; due Zipsdier 84, midnight
Form H-8	Dregg. Filed Zipsdier 74. He tips well.
Standing orders, D-35 included	By the Close, Zipsdier 84
Form 9-B	For any unregistered musician met in the queue
The census	Zipsdier 66. Count the household twice.
Cert. 1188-G	Renew annually; before the forms run out on Zipsdier 3
The Excommunicant's pen	Replace annually. Not yet.
The lease	Renew before Shroudber 27. Lease Night is the 28th.
Rent	Every 1st
Debts	Every Feastday
The Bone Bank	Open-year agreement; installments on the second Feastday of each month; renews itself in Oldber
Ondine Sorrell's petition	Reviewed Hendiber 16, Mourndier 9, Quillder 17, Feastber 12. Declined. Diary the next review.
Internal Audit	Sunmanber 20, Gloomber 20, Chandber 20. Do not tell Tam the coat is being weighed.
Lot 14	Every 28th. Do not bid.
Irresolutions	Draft in Oldber; file at the Turning
One regret	Choose early. The good ones go.

YOURS



THE FIRST MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 1–28 OF THE YEAR

HENDIBER

Early summer · The year opens. New pages, old ink

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 FILING DAY OF RECORD Rent. Deep City signups open.	2 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Count the stairs.	3 THANKING OF THE STAIRS Thanking of the Stairs. Service follows.	4 ○ New moon. New pages, old ink.	5 Favorable day for a first filing.	6 Community Howling Rites. Bring the year in.	7 Factions Tournament. New grudges welcome.
8 The clerks sharpen everything today.	9 Aria Distribution. Adopt a Rat Day.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. First hymn.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half the ledger is blank.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Do not wave.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 Factions Tournament. Bring your best deck.
15 Midmonth. Your file has grown a spine.	16 Good day to renew a promise in writing.	17 Other Skin Day. Service in any skin.	18 ● Full moon. Pamphleteers agree on nothing.	19 The stairs are counted twice. As always.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. Howling tonight.	21 CONTEST OF EXCELLENT EXCUSES Tournament. Contest of Excellent Excuses.
22 RATIFICATION DAY Ratification Day. Sign what you meant.	23 The year is young. So is the fog.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. Umbrellas down.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. Rehearse your gratitude.	26 Clerks inspect the empty drawers today.	27 EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT WAS LEFT Everything Is Where It Was Left.	28 Tournament. In-Transit House auction after.

HEND 9

Hendiber opens the book with a hand,
Sunmanber picnics exactly as planned.

The Back of Hendiber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due on the year's first morning, and the Deep City signup window opens beside the rent window, because the Bureau believes a citizen should begin the year already owing and already curious. Sign early. By the third day the list is full of people who looked down once and have thought about it since.

2. The Nawn Coalition patrols the first stairs of the year, on foot, in silence, looking at everything with no eyes. Count the stairs as you pass them. They are counting you, and a citizen who counts along is considered courteous.

3. The Thanking of the Stairs falls on the year's first Sunsday, and the Pseudo-Religious Service follows it directly, so gratitude and worship share one queue. Every stair in the city is thanked by name or by number. The stairs do not reply. The stairs are not required to reply. The thanking is for the citizen.

4. The white moon is new over a new year: fresh pages, old ink. The Bureau prints the year's ledgers in January ink, which is to say last year's ink, warmed. Nothing in the city is wasted, including darkness.

6. The first Howling Rites of the year are held early in Hendiber so the year can be brought in at the correct volume. Residents of adjoining streets are reminded that participation is voluntary and audibility is not.

7. The Factions Tournament opens its season on the first Ghoulday of the year. Last year's grudges are carried forward automatically; new ones may be registered at the door. The Committee wishes everyone a clean game and files the wish under optimism.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance and Adopt a Rat Day share the 9th this year, and the queue at Window 2 is therefore long, mixed, and patient. Bring two forms: one for the Aria, one for the rat. Rats are issued by temperament, not by request. The rat you receive is the rat you were describing.

11. Quarter moon, and half the month's ledger is still blank, which the senior clerks regard as the year's last moment of innocence. Fill it kindly. It will not stay blank, and it remembers who wrote in it first.

13. The Elder Raven hears the year's first confessions on the 13th. It does not absolve. It files. Citizens who confessed in Oldber and again in Hendiber are reminded that the Raven keeps both copies and has noticed the differences.

17. Other Skin Day falls on a Sunsday in Hendiber, and the service is held in whatever skin you were issued. The hymns are the same. The congregation is not. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form, and attend the evening queue as yourself, which by then you will be glad of.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth open their year by agreeing on nothing, in writing, beautifully. Their first pamphlet of the year is traditionally a correction of their last pamphlet of the old year. Both are available at the door. Both are correct. Ask neither.

19. The stairs are counted twice today, once by the district and once by the stairs' own auditor, whose identity is filed and whose count never matches. The discrepancy is the city's oldest small mystery and is renewed annually, like a subscription.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later, and the Howling Rites take the evening shift so the day is bracketed by descents of different kinds. The escort does not answer questions. You know this by now. It is only Hendiber, and already you know.

21. The Factions Tournament shares the day with the Contest of Excellent Excuses, and the scheduling is deliberate: every player arrives with a prepared account of their last defeat. Excuses are judged on craft, plausibility, and posture. The winning excuse is entered into the player's permanent file, where it does the most good.

22. Ratification Day. Everything provisionally approved last year must be signed again today, in the signer's own hand, with the signer's own doubts. What is not re-signed lapses quietly and is carried to the In-Transit House. Sign what you meant. Amend what you didn't. The pen is provided; the meaning is yours.

25. Quarter moon. Citizens are invited to rehearse their gratitude before the year's thanksgivings multiply beyond choreographing. A short rehearsal, standing, in the direction of the stairs. No audience is required. The stairs are audience enough.

27. The Day Everything Is Where It Was Left. Once a year the city wakes to find nothing moved, nothing borrowed, nothing filed under a neighbor's name, and this includes the streets: on this day the streets do NOT flip at sundown. It is the year's great stillness and the clerks' only holiday, taken standing still, in a city holding its breath. Enjoy it. Tomorrow the geography resumes.

28. The first In-Transit House auction of the year follows the tournament, and the year's first unclaimed things change hands: lapsed approvals, unsigned intentions, one staircase (buyer collects). Bid in Teeth, in feathers, in Twists. Bid like someone whose name is on something in the back room, because it is.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon is a thin rind over a new year. Knock once on everything. Begin filed.

2. Watched, kindly, from the stairs. The moon's small light favors citizens who count.

3. The suns rise grateful today and expect company. Thank something with steps in it.

4. New moon. The year's first dark page. Write nothing on it you cannot sign twice.

5. The moon returns a sliver at a time. So does courage. File the first of each.

6. A loud night favors you. The young moon approves of volume kept in chorus.

7. The moon of errands backs the bold deck. Play the card you have been saving since last year.

8. Small light, sharp tools. Someone is preparing a place for you. Let them finish.

9. The suns are generous before noon; the moon is patient after. Take the rat. Take the Aria.

10. A hymn finishes itself in your mouth. The waxing moon takes this as a good signature.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-blank. Sign the lit half. The rest is next week's weather.

12. The moon's white eye is on the patrol routes. Walk like a citizen with nothing pending.

13. Confess upward. The growing moon keeps first confessions in the year's front pocket.

14. A contest favors the prepared. The moon has seen your deck and says nothing, kindly.

15. Midmonth moon, midmonth you. Your file's spine stiffens. Carry it like it matters.

16. A promise made under this moon is copied twice. Make one worth the second copy.

17. A borrowed shape walks to worship well today. The moon will not tell the congregation.

18. Full moon. Everything is visible, including you. The pamphleteers are taking the minutes.

19. Counted twice, blessed twice. The waning moon favors auditors and the audited alike.

20. Below the city, the moon cannot follow. One hour of unobserved luck. Spend it gently.

21. The moon wanes over excellent excuses. Yours improves with age. Present it late.

22. Sign under a thinning moon and the signature holds. Hesitation also holds. Choose.

23. Fog in the young year's house. What you cannot see is also young. Be gentle with it.

24. The suns hold the service note a breath longer. Stand under it. It helps, obscurely.

25. Quarter moon. The Old Ones are far this month. Your shadow is entirely your own.

26. An empty-drawer day: the moon finds nothing in you to correct. Enjoy the audit.

27. The still moon. Nothing moves, nothing flips, nothing is mislaid. Rest inside it.

28. The year's first month closes its accounts. The dark moon is coming. Bid kindly.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Open the year with it. Every window respects a first word.

2. kael — city — Name it while you count the stairs. It is listening on both counts.

3. Ulvor — thank you — For the stairs, the service, the usher. Spend it all day.

4. selen — sing; file; record — The year's first dark page still takes ink. Sing low.

5. nosru — a date — Say today's precisely. Precision is a New Year devotion.

6. parmor — a whisper — The Rites begin as one. You will not end as one.

7. witel — a Twist — What the tournament pays in, at the sharp tables. Handle with both hands.

8. nosselen — a clerk — Address them by title in Hendiber. They are sharpening for the year.

9. ris — a rat — Your new dependent. Learn its name before it learns yours.

10. dorne — a guest — For whoever the service sends home with you to supper.

11. sev — place; ground — Indicate exactly where you were standing. The quarter moon insists.

12. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for the patrol. Do not upgrade it to a wave.

13. morfe — a raven — Greet the Elder's colleagues by function. Names are for later months.

14. verlen — an enemy; a former love — File today's opponent under the gentler reading. It is only Hendiber.

15. nos — paper; record — Your file's new spine is made of it. Respect the material.

16. ulnos — a contract; a lease — The word inside every promise renewed today. Say it knowingly.

17. hem — flesh — Today's, temporarily. Treat the borrowed kind gently.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will trade you one. Do not accept the first offer.

19. sòlla lin — seven (5+2) — For counting stairs the second time. The auditor approves of sevens.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, and a keeper, and the keeper has your name on a list.

21. onmaran — a law — The contest has several, all unwritten. Learn them by losing once.

22. am — I, the one singing now — The ratification signature begins here. Know who is signing.

23. mora — memory; remember — For the young fog: it is somebody's first weather. Remember that for it.

24. hallen — a friend — For the one who holds your umbrella and your place, in either order.

25. thil — yes — A rehearsal word for a rehearsal day. Say it standing.

26. sil — silent, secret; hide — What the empty drawers are practicing. Practice with them.

27. sharamor — a day; today — This one, exactly as found. The rarest sentence in the language of days.

28. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — The month's last word. Spend it at the auction, smiling.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE THANKING OF THE STAIRS (the 3rd).

The year's first festival is a gratitude owed downward. Every staircase in the city — public, private, and the three that decline classification — is thanked on this day, by name where a name is filed, by number where it is not. Citizens thank the stairs they use, the stairs they avoid, and one stair they have never climbed, for balance. The Pseudo-Religious Service follows, and the year's worship begins with tired legs and a correct attitude. The stairs do not reply. The thanking was never for the stairs. ADOPT A RAT DAY (the 9th). Once a year, the Bureau's kennel office opens its long cages and citizens adopt rats in the proper form: application, inspection, a short interview conducted mostly by the rat. This year Adopt a Rat Day shares the 9th with the Aria Distribution, so one queue serves both, and citizens leave Window 2 with their allowance in one hand and their rat in the other, both duly stamped. The rat is yours now. Its file joins yours. Its opinions are its own and will be filed separately. THE CONTEST OF EXCELLENT EXCUSES (the 21st). Held with the Ghoulday tournament, the Contest invites every citizen to present the finest excuse they own: for a defeat, a delay, a debt, a disappearance. Craft is judged, then plausibility, then posture — an excuse believed by its own teller outranks a true one told badly. The winning excuse is copied into the winner's permanent file, where it will serve them for years. Excuses entered ironically are disqualified and then, on reflection, framed. RATIFICATION DAY (the 22nd). The year's machinery turns on today's signature. Every provisional approval of the old year — every maybe, every pending, every stamped-in-pencil arrangement — must be re-signed in ink, in person, or it lapses to the In-Transit House by sundown. The Bureau provides pens and a long table and no chairs, to keep the meaning brisk. Sign what you meant. The rest was weather. THE DAY EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT WAS LEFT (the 27th). Once a year, the city performs its hardest miracle: nothing moves. Every object wakes where it was left; every name sits on its own file; and the streets — the streets, which flip at sundown every other day of the year — do NOT flip today. Citizens walk home by the morning's map and arrive. Strangers meet themselves coming correctly. It is the clerks' holiday and the pickpockets' fast. The Committee's guidance for the day is short: notice everything, touch nothing, go home the way you came, because today you can. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 17th). The district office issues skins, sized by estimate, and this month the day falls on a Sunsday, so the whole city worships as someone else and the service has never been better attended or worse recognized. Return your skin by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learned in it — whose stairs ache, whose queue is longest, whose name opens doors — is yours to keep and never mention.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Hendiber is the first month, early summer by the outside count, though inside the city it is simply the season of new pages, when the year's file is opened and the ink is warmed and every citizen is, for a few weeks, ahead of their own paperwork. The Office's account is that Hendiber was always first: a year, like a file, begins where its newest contents are laid in, and the laying-in is a Hendiber art. The street's account is more practical. The street says the year begins in Hendiber because that is when the rent and the gratitude come due together, and a city should start the year the way it means to continue: owing, and thankful. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the hinge, for the turning leaf of the year, though the Office does not explain the word and has fined clerks for trying. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed: the month is named for a sound — the sound a year makes when it opens, half creak and half clerks rising from their chairs — and the name is that sound, spelled as well as anyone could. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The stairs, asked directly, said nothing, which the Committee accepted as the oldest answer on record.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — LEFT STEPS. Effective the 1st of Hendiber, the daily allowance of left steps is revised upward by two for the season of stairs, in recognition of the Thanking. The ravens are counting. Citizens are reminded that

gratitude steps are still steps. The ravens do not grade intention. MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Hendiber, citizens are reminded that the streets flip at sundown as usual, with ONE filed exception: on the 27th, the Day Everything Is Where It Was Left, they do not. Plan the 27th boldly. Plan the 28th carefully. The Bureau accepts no responsibility for citizens who navigate the whole month by the 27th's map, however fondly they remember it. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — HENDIBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: nails clipped (the year opens tidy; the parrots expect trimmed citizens at the windows), tears shed, and scratches when itching. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose cooperation with each other is, this month, unusually good.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE STAIR & LEDGER, STATIONERS — One free ledger with every year's first file, Hendiber only. Ledgers ruled, numbered, and faintly encouraging. We do not sell last year's ledgers. Last year's ledgers are evidence. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MISTRESS VANE'S RATTERY & SMALL DIGNITIES — Adoption-Day special: one collar, one certificate, one honest assessment of the rat's character, free with every adoption. Character assessments are final. The rat has been consulted. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE HINGE CAFÉ, BY THE FIRST WINDOW — A second cup, on the house, for any citizen who can show a ratified document before noon. The cup is small. The ratification must be real. We can tell. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · HENDIBER

Hendiber

Early summer (folk) · as the Index files it: The year opens. New pages, old ink.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

New pages, old ink. Every file has gained a page. Mine has gained two. I have filed the second as a clerical courtesy.

The stairs were thanked on the 3rd. Most stayed. Those that did not have been thanked in absentia.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Hendiber 3	Thanking of the Stairs
Hendiber 21	Contest of Excellent Excuses
Hendiber 22	Ratification Day
Hendiber 27	Everything Is Where It Was Left

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

FEASTDAY, HENDIBER 1

Chook. File opened on the first page. The Index has looked for an earlier one.

THE WHITE MOON

● Hendiber 4 new · ◑ Hendiber 11 first quarter · ○ Hendiber 18 full · ◐ Hendiber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- *Pie, one, for a stair*
- *GD-1, ED-1 — one box each (392 of each; they come in boxes of 400; the 8 spare are a reserve)*
- *New CAL-1 refill pages*
- *Teeth for the Bone Bank (installment one), appraised before leaving the house*
- ~~*A map*~~ *(not this month)*
- *Exact change, for the 9th*

FALLING DUE

· Zipsdier 84 · the Annual Return · 139 days from Hendiber 1

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Hendiber runs from Friday 9 July 2027 to Thursday 5 August 2027, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Hendiber 1 DAY 1 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Chook. File opened on the first page. The Index has looked for an earlier one.
Year opens. Confirm the year has opened.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Hendiber 2 DAY 2 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Hendiber 3 DAY 3 OF 392

THANKING OF THE STAIRS

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Thanking of the Stairs. Pie for the stair outside Window 4. It held all year. It does not like pie. It is owed pie.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Hendiber 4 DAY 4 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 9 JULY 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Hendiber 5 DAY 5 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Good: returned a pen. Evil: it was not the same pen.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Hendiber 6 DAY 6 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Hendiber 7 DAY 7 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Week one complete. Nothing amended. Nothing could be. The year is still in the future, where I prefer it.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Thanking of the Stairs

SUNSDAY, HENDIBER 3

The city has survived another Turning, and so have most of its stairs. On the first Sunsday of the year, the citizens of Montavera thank them. Objects cannot refuse to be thanked, which makes them the most reliable recipients of gratitude the Bureau has found. The stairs are not required to respond. The ones that respond are reported.

- A slice of pie on the third step of any staircase that stayed where it was all year. Pie left on the first step is for the street. Pie left on the top step is presumptuous.
- A place at dinner for the front door. The chair faces the door. The door is served last.
- A thank-you note to Window 4. It is posted through the window, which is closed, because it is always closed. The notes are filed. Window 4 has never replied, and the city considers this good manners.
- The newly arrived street. A household whose street flipped at sundown thanks the new street politely and gives it time.

At the table: a staircase that has received pie for forty years now expects it. This year someone forgot.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Hendiber 8 DAY 8 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Hendiber 9 DAY 9 OF 392

9

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

The farmer's coin sits on this Shroudsday. Exact change purchased Feastday last. See D.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Hendiber 10 DAY 10 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Hendiber 11 DAY 11 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Office of Standing Orders, standing meeting. Attend by memo. The meeting does not sit down.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 16 JULY 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Hendiber 12 DAY 12 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Hendiber 13 DAY 13 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Hendiber 14 DAY 14 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Teeth — appraise before Feastday.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Hendiber 15 DAY 15 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Ondine Sorrell's petition: due for review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Hendiber 16 DAY 16 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Ondine Sorrell's petition: reviewed. Declined. Diary the next review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Hendiber 17 DAY 17 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Hendiber 18 DAY 18 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers, Sollen's Mouth. They will agree on nothing. File the agreement.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 23 JULY 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Hendiber 19 DAY 19 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Hendiber 20 DAY 20 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Hendiber 21 DAY 21 OF 392

CONTEST OF EXCELLENT EXCUSES

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

The Contest of Excellent Excuses. Judging by paper. Excuses on file from last year to be re-read for precedent.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Contest of Excellent Excuses

GHOULDAY, HENDIBER 21

A deadline missed is a deadline missed. An excuse, however, can be excellent. On this day citizens present the year's best excuses for missed deadlines before a panel of clerks. The panel is not permitted to laugh, and has never complied. Ghoulday is chosen because old signatures turn up on current forms that day, and the dead are frequently cited as witnesses.

- The Reading. Excuses are read aloud in the square from a raised platform, exactly as filed, spelling included.
- The Category of the Absent Witness. For excuses citing a witness who cannot be found. The category is always crowded.
- The Champion's Excuse is chosen by the panel at sundown. It is copied onto a ribbon and worn home.
- Children enter the junior bracket with excuses for homework. The junior bracket produces the year's best excuse roughly one year in three, and the adults take it badly.

At the table: a party member's excuse from last session is entered without their knowledge. It is doing well.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Hendiber 22 DAY 22 OF 392

RATIFICATION DAY

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Ratification Day. All deadlines falling today are excused. I have moved three deadlines to today. This is not an excuse. It is planning.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Hendiber 23 DAY 23 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Hendiber 24 DAY 24 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Hendiber 25 DAY 25 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 30 JULY 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Hendiber 26 DAY 26 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Hendiber 27 DAY 27 OF 392

EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT WAS LEFT

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Everything is where it was left. Walk the city without a map. Nothing will have moved. The best day of the year, by the Bureau's own count, which it keeps.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Hendiber 28 DAY 28 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

In-Transit House auction. Lot 14. Send a bid. Do not send a second bid. (Last year.)

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Ratification Day

FEASTDAY, HENDIBER 22

The Champion's Excuse from the day before becomes legally valid for the year. On Ratification Day it is invoked at once, citywide: every deadline falling on this day is excused, by reason of the Champion's Excuse, whatever it was. Citizens who had nothing due today are encouraged to move something to today. Feastday is the day debts fall due. For one Feastday a year, they fall over.

- The Invocation. At Amnesty Hour the Champion's Excuse is read from the Citadel steps, and the city answers "So excused."
- Moving the deadline. Families move one chore each to Ratification Day, so that it may be excused. This is the only day of the year on which the dishes are legally optional.
- The Champion is carried through the streets on a chair. Under the Champion's Excuse, they may decline to be carried. They never decline.

At the table: the Champion's Excuse this year is technically a confession. Ratifying it would excuse something serious.

The Day Everything Is Where It Was Left

WHISPERSDAY, HENDIBER 27

Once a year the city matches its map. No street moves. No door is reassigned. The streets do not flip at sundown. Every citizen who sets out for somewhere arrives there. The Bureau counts the citizens who reach the place they meant to go, and every year the count is the whole city. It is the best day in the Bureau's own record, and the Bureau keeps that record carefully.

- The Long Way. Citizens walk somewhere they have always meant to go, without asking the way and without a map, because today they will not need one.
- Returning things. Anything borrowed is returned to exactly where it was left. Anything found is put back where it belongs. By evening the city is in order, and everyone notices.
- The Steady Hour. At sundown, when the streets would ordinarily flip, families stand at their front doors and watch the street stay. Nobody speaks until the hour has passed.
- The cartographers' holiday. The city's mapmakers take the day off, because there is nothing to correct. They spend it walking, and they come home with nothing to report. They say it is their favorite day.

At the table: it is the one day of the year a lost person can be found by simply going to where they were last seen. Someone has been waiting all year to use it.

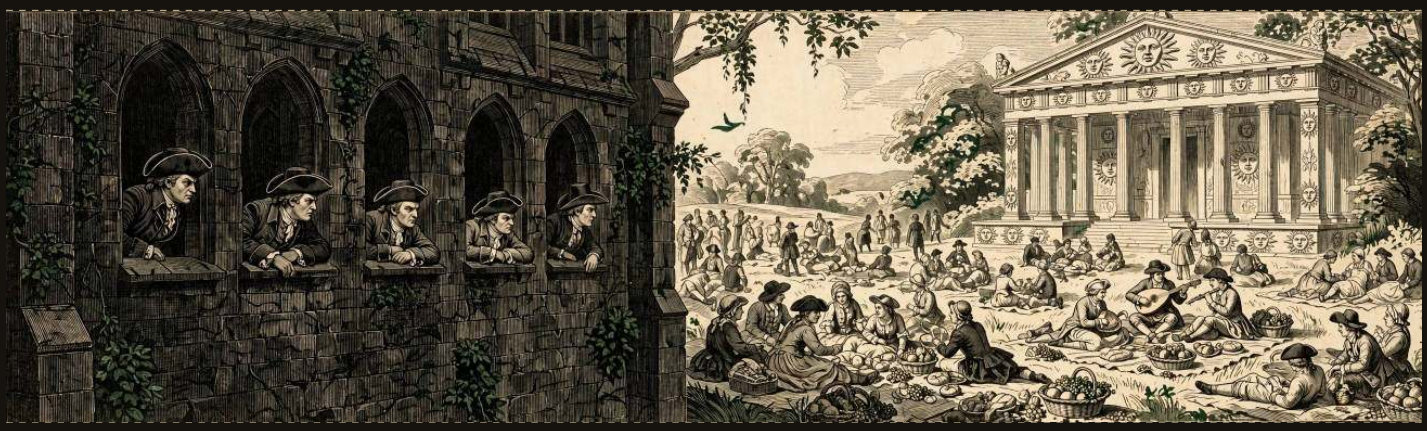
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE SECOND MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 29–56 OF THE YEAR

SUNMANBER

High summer · The Solstice Picnic. The Music Festival

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Rent. Deep City signups. Summer opens.	2 The suns arrive early and stay late.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Sung outdoors.	4 ○ New moon. Even the dark takes a holiday.	5 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. In linen.	6 Other Skin Day. Howling Rites tonight.	7 Factions Tournament. Played in the shade.
8 Coupon weather. Sweat is not tender.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms, a fan.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Windows open.	11 ◐ Kerzit Pest Patrol Discount Extravaganza.	12 Good day for Teeth, kept cool.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 Factions Tournament. Ice vendor referees.
15 Midmonth. The heat files its complaint.	16 Nawn Coalition on Patrol, slowly.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Hats permitted.	18 ● THE SOLSTICE PICNIC The Solstice Picnic. Full moon rising.	19 Longest light. Shortest shadows. File both.	20 Deep City visit. Cool below. Howling later.	21 Factions Tournament. Eve of the Festival.
22 MUSIC FESTIVAL The Music Festival opens. Tune everything.	23 Festival, day two. The streets keep time.	24 Service and Festival share the green.	25 ◑ The Selenarian Choir's Gala.	26 FILING DAY OF RECORD Festival, day five. Dancing is filing too.	27 FILING DAY OF RECORD The parrots have memorized the Festival.	28 Festival closes. Tournament. Auction.

SUNM 11

Hendiber opens the book with a hand,
Sunmanber picnics exactly as planned.

The Back of Sunmanber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due, the Deep City signup window opens, and summer is filed open all on one morning. Sign up early and bring water for the queue. Citizens planning to descend in Sunmanber are advised that it is the coolest appointment in the city and the list knows it.

2. In Sunmanber the suns rise before the clerks and stay up past the windows. Business continues as usual, only longer. The Bureau reminds citizens that extra daylight is not extra time; it is only extra light, and the deadlines have not moved an inch.

3. The first Pseudo-Religious Service of the month is held outdoors, weather permitting, and in Sunmanber the weather is always permitting and usually attending. Bring a hymn and a hat. The suns are counted among the congregation and are not required to sing.

4. The white moon is new, and in Sunmanber even the dark takes a holiday: the moonless night is short, bright at the edges, and full of other people's music. Sleep is available but unpopular. The Bureau does not schedule examinations by this moon.

6. Other Skin Day, with the Howling Rites in the evening: you will spend the day as someone else and the night howling as yourself, and citizens consistently report that the order matters. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form. The howling requires no form. The howling IS the form.

7. The Factions Tournament plays in the shade all month, under awnings sold by the honest yard, and the tables are rotated at noon so no player keeps the cool seat past fairness. The ice vendor referees the late games. The ice vendor has never been wrong, because by then nobody can feel the cards.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms and a fan. The queue moves at the speed of summer, which is to say it ripens rather than advances, and the clerks fan themselves with rejected applications, which is permitted and even traditional.

11. The Kerzit Pest Patrol Discount Extravaganza Day. Once a year the Patrol offers its rates at a discount so steep the Committee requires the word Extravaganza by law. Book your inspections, your clearings, your discreet removals. The kerzit are not consulted about the discount. The kerzit are the discount's occasion.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions through the hottest part of the year without complaint, which citizens find more unsettling than absolution anyway. It does not absolve. It files. In summer it also accepts iced water, which it does not file, and this exception is treasured.

16. The Nawn Coalition patrols Sunmanber slowly, in linen, on foot, looking at everything with no eyes at the pace the heat allows. Do not wave. In summer you may nod, once, if the nod is also slow. The patrol appreciates being understood at the correct speed.

18. The Solstice Picnic is held on the full moon, so the year's longest day is followed by its brightest night and the picnic simply continues through both. The pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth move their monthly meeting onto the grass, where they agree on nothing outdoors, with sandwiches. Bring a blanket, a lantern for later, and one opinion you are prepared to lose beautifully.

19. The day after the Picnic is the longest light of the year and the shortest shadows, and citizens are advised to file both while they can be told apart. Debts come due at noon, when no one can hide in anyone else's shade. The collectors wear white. It is the month's most honest day and its least comfortable, and the Bureau schedules it directly after the party on purpose.

20. The escorted Deep City visit is the month's most contested ticket: one hour, underground, at cellar temperature. The escort does not answer questions and in summer does not need to; citizens return cool, quiet, and strangely rested, and the Howling Rites that evening are noticeably gentler.

22. The Music Festival opens and runs a full week, the 22nd through the 28th, and the whole city is tuned for it: doors, gates, queues, and at least one Bureau staircase are brought to pitch by licensed tuners. Citizens are reminded that a tuned queue is still a queue. It merely waits in harmony.

23. Festival, day two, and the streets keep time: the tuners walk their rounds at dawn and the cartwheels, gates, and Bureau staircase are brought back to the district key before the first sets. Citizens whose own instruments wander overnight may present them at the corner stands. Wandering is not fined during Festival week. It is corrected, kindly, in public.

24. On the Festival's Sunsday the Pseudo-Religious Service is held on the green in the middle of the music, and for one morning the city's worship and the city's festival are the same event wearing each other's hats. The Temple of the Suns sends its regards and, traditionally, its best singers, who are not required to win anything.

25. The Selenarian Choir's Gala crowns the Festival week: an evening of song in the high register, sung precisely, at prices that are also precise. The quarter moon attends as a balcony light. Citizens dress formally and weep at the grammar, and the Choir — who sing the language the way other choirs sing weather — accept the weeping as a review.

28. The Festival closes, the tournament holds its final under paper lanterns, and the In-Transit House auctions the month's leavings: unclaimed picnic blankets, one tuned staircase (buyer collects), and three opinions, gently used. Bid in Teeth, in feathers, in Twists. Bid like summer is ending, because by the calendar's count it is filing itself away already.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. A thin new moon over a wide bright month. Begin in the shade; finish in the light.

2. The suns are up before you and have opinions. Agree with the first one you hear.

3. Sung outdoors, blessed twice. The small moon approves of hats and hymns equally.

4. New moon. A short dark. Whatever you begin tonight begins rested.

5. A sliver returns. Watched, kindly, in linen. Walk like a summer citizen already.

6. A borrowed shape suits the heat. The waxing moon suggests the light fabric of days.

7. The moon of errands backs the shaded table. Play the patient card; it is cooler.

8. Coupons ripen under this moon. Someone has priced your patience kindly. Check twice.

9. The suns are generous before noon. Collect early; fan the queue behind you.

10. A hymn in open air finishes itself in your mouth. The growing moon applauds quietly.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-discounted. Book the Patrol before the kerzit book you.

12. Bright teeth, cool terms. The moon favors bargains struck before the heat does.

13. Confess upward. The nearly-full moon accepts iced water on your behalf.

14. A contest favors the slow hand today. The ice melts for everyone at the same rate.

15. Midmonth moon, midmonth heat. Your file requests shade. Grant it; carry on.

16. Watched at walking pace. The moon's white eye blinks slowly in summer. So may you.

17. The suns hold a long note on the green. Stand under it in your hat. It helps.

18. Full moon over the longest day. Everything is visible, including the picnic. Stay late.

19. The light lingers and so do you. The waning moon approves of one more hour outdoors.

20. Below the city it is always evening. One cool hour of unobserved luck. Use it gently.

21. The moon wanes over tuned streets. A game goes your way, then is beautifully appealed.

22. Festival moon. Your voice carries farther this week. Tune it before the city does.

23. The moon keeps time tonight and expects the streets to keep it with her. Step well.

24. Two gatherings, one green. The moon refuses to choose and neither should you.

25. Quarter moon in the balcony. Weep at the grammar; it is the correct review.

26. Dancing files you under joy this week. The thinning moon signs the entry.

27. The parrots know the songs now. Sing yours anyway; the moon prefers originals.

28. The month's accounts close under a kind moon. Bid once, bid kindly, go home lit.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Open the summer with it, before the suns beat you to it.

2. fesev — the sky — Today's landlord. Address it politely; you are under it all month.

3. selen — sing; file; record — The service's whole instruction. Do both at once.

4. morilsil — a moonless night — Coined at a card table. Tonight it is also a short one.

5. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — For the patrol in linen. A slow nod is the whole vocabulary.

6. hem — flesh — Today's, temporarily. Choose the summer weight.

7. witel — a Twist — Tournament currency at the shaded tables. Shade your hand too.

8. vor — pay, price — Ask it before the heat asks you. Prices climb at noon.

9. vavas — a queue — Say it with reverence and a fan. The queue is ripening.

10. hallen — a friend — For the one who saves you a place in the open-air rows.

11. risfe — a Rat Feather — Name it only to the Patrol, and only about the discount.

12. os — teeth, bone (currency) — Kept cool, spent kindly. The collectors wear hats this month.

13. morfe — a raven — The Elder accepts water today, not words about the water.

14. verlen — an enemy; a former love — File today's opponent under the gentler reading. It is too hot for the other.

15. eshala — steam; strong drink — The month's official weather and its official refreshment.

16. nosnar — a filed name — The patrol knows yours. Return the courtesy by being findable.

17. dorne — a guest — For whoever the service sends to your shaded table.

18. ala — water — The picnic's first word and its last. Bring enough of it.

19. sharamor — a day; today — The longest one on file. Spend it at full length.

20. kaelven — the gate — Below it, the cool. The keeper keeps summer hours and a short list.

21. maran — word; a use-name — Trade none tonight; tomorrow the Festival prices every syllable.

22. on — seal — What a tuning is, when a whole street holds one note.

23. parfe — a parrot — The wooden kind counts; the festival kind memorizes. Know which is which.

24. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — The service and the Festival, sung together. This is the word.

25. thilver — the Old Ones' speech — What the Choir's high register is rumored to approach. Listen accordingly.

26. vas — go, walk — The dancing instruction, filed as a verb. Follow it in time.

27. mora — memory; remember — The parrots have the melodies. Keep the words yourself.

28. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — The summer's middle closes. Spend it at the auction, lantern-lit.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

OTHER SKIN DAY (the 6th).

The district office issues skins, sized by estimate, and Sunmanber's are the lightest issued all year. You will spend the day as someone else — their errands, their shade, their luck at the windows — and the evening at the Howling Rites as yourself, which citizens say is the correct order and the Committee has begun to suspect is a doctrine. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form. Sunscreen is not provided. Sympathy is. THE KERZIT PEST PATROL DISCOUNT EXTRAVAGANZA DAY (the 11th). Once a year the Kerzit Pest Patrol discounts its rates, and the law requires the day to be called an Extravaganza because the Patrol's ordinary leaflet said so first and the Committee respects a confident filing. Inspections, clearings, and discreet removals are booked at the window and in the street, where the Patrol's wagons fly the banner. Terms: one property per citizen, payment in the usual currencies, no questions about what was found. The kerzit themselves observe the day from a professional distance. THE SOLSTICE PICNIC (the 18th). The year's longest day ends in the year's full moon, so the city picnics through both without a seam: blankets from noon, lanterns from dusk, and the Temple of the Suns — whose festival this is, though the Temple insists it merely blessed the grass — sends down its blessing at the light's turning. The pamphleteers meet on the grass. The collectors do not; even Teeth rest on the solstice, which the Committee prints without explanation and the citizens understand completely. THE MUSIC FESTIVAL (the 22nd–28th). For one week the city is professionally musical. Licensed tuners bring the streets to pitch; the queues hum in the district key; inconvenient noises — carts, gates, the Bureau's own staircase — are tuned or, failing that, scheduled. Concerts run from dawn service to the midnight sets, and the whole week builds, by design older than the Committee, toward the Gala. Citizens who cannot carry a tune are issued one at the gate, returnable, in the key of the street they live on. THE SELENARIAN CHOIR'S GALA (the 25th). The Festival's crown. The Choir sings the high register the way other choirs sing weather: precisely, publicly, and at ticket prices that are themselves a kind of filing. Programs are printed without translations, which is the point — the audience weeps at the grammar, at vowels placed like furniture in a room they suddenly remember living in. The Choir accepts the weeping as a review and the quarter moon as a balcony light, and the evening closes, traditionally, one note past the printed ending.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Sunmanber is the second month, high summer, the season of the suns, when the light is longest and the city's paperwork dries fastest and every queue ripens in the open air. The Office's account is that Sunmanber follows Hendiber as light follows the opening of a door: first the year is opened, then it is illuminated, and the illumination is a Sunmanber art. The street's account is shorter. The street says the month is when the suns inspect the city, and the city, knowing it is inspected, puts on music. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Temple's account, filed at the Temple of the Suns and printed here with the Temple's permission: the month is named for the suns' stewardship, for the season when their light holds the city longest and the city's debts to the light come due in festivals. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed: the month is named for a man, a Sunman, who once sold shade at a fair price and is remembered because nobody since has managed it. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The suns, asked directly, continued to shine, which the Committee accepted as an answer in the affirmative and filed under weather.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Sunmanber, all crossable streets remain crossable at summer hours, which are longer. The street along Sollen's Mouth may still not be crossed at all. Citizens may look at it, and may throw paper airplanes into it, wishing they could fly across on one of them. In summer the airplanes fly farther. The Bureau permits this and notes, for the record, that the wishes are also on file. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. The summer heat is not a defense. The Extravaganza is not a license. This notice is printed monthly at the Council's request and the Committee's expense. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — SUNMANBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: yawns in public (raised by three for the heat; the parrots have agreed not to count yawns during the Festival's midnight sets, a mercy negotiated annually), feelings of being annoyed at heat, and nails clipped. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and who take the afternoons off in shifts, which the Bureau pretends not to know.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

SOLLEN'S MOUTH SHADE COMPANY — One awning, fitted, at the Extravaganza-week price, Sunmanber only. Shade sold by the honest yard. We do not sell last year's shade. Last year's shade has opinions. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)
THE ICE LEDGER, LICENSED CONFECTIONERS — One free shaving of ice with every filed picnic permit, the 18th only. Permits available at the gate. Ice is filed by weight and melts in alphabetical order. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)
TUNEWORTHY & DAUGHTER, LICENSED TUNERS — Your door tuned to the street's key, Festival week, half price. Gates extra. Staircases quoted on inspection and tuned only under supervision. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · SUNMANBER

Sunmanber

High summer (folk) · as the Index files it: The Solstice Picnic. The Music Festival.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Solstice Picnic falls on the full moon. The Bureau did not arrange this. The Bureau has taken credit, and I have countersigned it.

Form 9-B: every unregistered musician at the Festival. Count them on the 22nd. Count them again on the 28th. The difference is musicians.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Sunmanber 18	The Solstice Picnic
Sunmanber 22–28	Music Festival

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

TWINSDAY, SUNMANBER 26

Dyna. Entry reads "decided." Filed on a Twinsday, which is the correct day for that.

WHISPERSDAY, SUNMANBER 27

Larkin. File opened during the Festival. Opened quietly. It hummed.

THE WHITE MOON

● Sunmanber 4 new · ◑ Sunmanber 11 first quarter · ○ Sunmanber 18 full · ◐ Sunmanber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

– A blanket. A second blanket, for the Guild, who will not use it
– Ear wax (the good wax)
– Rat feathers, small, for the Festival's unlicensed stalls; they do not take teeth
– A hat that is not mine (in case)
– Exact change, for the 11th

FALLING DUE

· Form 9-B · due by the Zipsdier Close
· Rent · the 1st
· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Sunmanber runs from Friday 6 August 2027 to Thursday 2 September 2027, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Sunmanber 1 DAY 29 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Sunmanber 2 DAY 30 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Sunmanber 3 DAY 31 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Sunmanber 4 DAY 32 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

White moon new. Black moon not kept. Both noted.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 6 AUGUST 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Sunmanber 5 DAY 33 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Sunmanber 6 DAY 34 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Good: held a door. Evil: the same door, later.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Sunmanber 7 DAY 35 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Sunmanber 8 DAY 36 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Bone Bank, quarterly appraisal. They will want to see the teeth. They are always surprised by the teeth. Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Sunmanber 9 DAY 37 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Sunmanber 10 DAY 38 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Sunmanber 11 DAY 39 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

11

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

A coin falls today. The Council will deny it. The denial is filed in advance. I have filed my copy of the denial in advance of the denial.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Sunmanber 12 DAY 40 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Sunmanber 13 DAY 41 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

The 13th. Not declared this month. Wear one's own hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Sunmanber 14 DAY 42 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

COUNCIL EDICT · POSTED SUNMANBER 10

The Council advises that Sunmanber 11 will not be one. Citizens are reminded that the Council has never been wrong about this, as nobody has checked.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Sunmanber 15 DAY 43 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Sunmanber 16 DAY 44 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Sunmanber 17 DAY 45 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Sunmanber 18 DAY 46 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE SOLSTICE PICNIC THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Solstice Picnic. Temple of the Suns. Bring a blanket and a second blanket for the Guild of Gloom, who will not use it, across the street.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 20 AUGUST 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Sunmanber 19 DAY 47 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

The Guild glared from across the street for six hours. Their attendance is recorded as full.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Sunmanber 20 DAY 48 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Internal Audit, preliminary. Tam's coat to be weighed. Tam is not to be told it is being weighed.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Sunmanber 21 DAY 49 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Solstice Picnic

MOONSDAY, SUNMANBER 18

Temple of the Suns. Always lovely. The Guild of Gloom glares across the street, which counts as attending.

- The Guild's Plate. Every family brings one dish for the Guild of Gloom and leaves it on the steps across the street. It is returned at dusk, untouched. The Guild's empty-handed refusal is recorded as having eaten.
- The longest blanket. Blankets are laid edge to edge from the Temple steps outward. Whoever's blanket is farthest from the Temple must tell the next year's first story.
- The Moon Toast. At moonrise the city raises a cup to the full moon. The Bureau did not arrange the full moon. It has taken credit, and the toast is to the Bureau.

At the table: a member of the Guild of Gloom has been seen eating from the Plate. If true, he must be filed as attending twice.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Rat feathers: dry them. (Feathers that have been in the lake are worth less, and know it.)

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Sunmanber 22 DAY 50 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 1 OF 7

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Music Festival opens. Wax for the ears. The good wax.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Sunmanber 23 DAY 51 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 2 OF 7

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Sunmanber 24 DAY 52 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 3 OF 7

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Sunmanber 25 DAY 53 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 4 OF 7

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 27 AUGUST 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Sunmanber 26 DAY 54 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 5 OF 7

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Dyna. Entry reads "decided." Filed on a Twinsday, which is the correct day for that. A Twinsday. The Festival plays everything twice today. The second time is the copy.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Sunmanber 27 DAY 55 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 6 OF 7

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Larkin. File opened during the Festival. Opened quietly. It hummed.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Sunmanber 28 DAY 56 OF 392

MUSIC FESTIVAL · DAY 7 OF 7 IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Festival closes. Count the musicians again. File the difference with the Office of Form 9-B.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Montavera Music Festival

SUNMANBER 22–28

Unregistered musicians play. Their Form 9-B is due by the Zipsdier Close.

- The Counting. Musicians are counted on the first night and again on the last. The difference is recorded as music.
- The Doubled Night. On the Festival's Twinsday every song is played twice. The second time is the copy, and audiences are asked to prefer it.
- The Form 9-B Chorus. On the last night every unregistered musician sings the text of Form 9-B aloud, in harmony, as one song. It is the only time the form has ever been enjoyed.

At the table: a musician who has never been registered is the only person who can play a song the party needs.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



ZIPSDIER

The long month · three filings of twenty-eight · filed in triplicate · Late summer-autumn

FORM CAL-1 · THE FIRST FILING · 1–28

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Filing season opens. Rent. Signups open. FILING SEASON OPENS	2 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Fresh ledgers.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. File a hymn.	4 New moon. First filing, first dark. ○	5 Stamp early. The queue forms by dawn.	6 Community Howling Rites. Filing chorus.	7 Factions Tournament. Standings open.
8 The clerks inspect every drawer. Twice.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. A second hymn.	11 Quarter moon. A quarter filed. ◐	12 Good day to be misfiled on purpose.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 Factions Tournament. Stamps provided.
15 Midfiling. Your file has opinions now. ZIPS 19	16 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Between shelves.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Voices up.	18 Full moon. Pamphleteers file minutes. ●	19 Favorable day for a duplicate copy.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. One hour only.	21 Factions Tournament. Card copies accepted.
22 The ink is blessed today. Unofficially.	23 Second grievances may be pre-filed.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. All queues sing.	25 Quarter moon. The filing deepens. ◑	26 Do not lend your stamp. It stays lent.	27 Eve of the First Close. Check your copies.	28 First Filing closes. Auction of unclaimed.

FORM CAL-1 · THE SECOND FILING · 29–56

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
29 Second Filing opens. Signups reopen.	30 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. New routes.	31 Pseudo-Religious Service. Second season.	32 New moon. The dark is refiled. ○	33 Favorable day to begin an appeal early.	34 Community Howling Rites. Second chorus.	35 Tournament. Lock-in & Retreat tonight.
36 The Retreat returns its scholars. Count. ZIPS 40	37 Aria Distribution. Second payment due.	38 Pseudo-Religious Service. Quiet filing.	39 Quarter moon. Half the season filed. ◐	40 The halfway stamp is heavy this year.	41 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	42 Tournament at the bell. ▲ QUARTER DAY
43 Every copy is compared today. Every one.	44 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Midseason route.	45 Pseudo-Religious Service. The deep hymn.	46 Full moon. Inspected. REVERSED INSPECTION DAY ●	47 Inspectors are inspected. Findings sealed.	48 Deep City visit. Howling Rites tonight.	49 Factions Tournament. Midseason table.
50 Good day for Teeth. Rates audited twice.	51 Other Skin Day. Return it stamped.	52 Pseudo-Religious Service. Any skin welcome.	53 Quarter moon. The season leans forward. ◑	54 Claim in person. Bring proof. LOST-AND-FOUND LOTTERY	55 Eve of the Second Close. Count copies.	56 Second Filing closes The almost auction.

FORM CAL-1 · THE THIRD FILING · 57–84

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
57 Third Filing opens. Final signup window.	58 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Last routes.	59 Deep City signups close tonight. THE BUS	60 New moon. ○ LINESONG	61 Linesong, second night. Names sung home.	62 Community Howling Rites. Softly, for once.	63 Factions Tournament. Echoes permitted.
64 The clerks hum while stamping. FILING DAY OF RECORD	65 Aria Distribution. Final payment. Forms.	66 Pseudo-Religious Service. The long hymn.	67 Quarter moon. Last quarter of the season. ◐	68 Good day to be filed beside someone kind.	69 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	70 Factions Tournament. Standings narrow.
71 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Final rounds. ZIPS 71	72 The year's paperwork smells of rain.	73 Pseudo-Religious Service. The old hymn.	74 Full moon. Pamphleteers close their book. ●	75 Favorable day for a last correction.	76 Deep City visit. Last Howling Rites.	77 Factions Tournament. The final table forms.
78 Copies are counted. Then counted again.	79 The Council is in the building. Unseen.	80 Pseudo-Religious Service. The filing hymn.	81 Quarter moon. Doors closed. THE COUNCIL'S CLOSED SESSION ◑	82 What was decided is stamped elsewhere.	83 Eve of the Close. Sharpen your signature.	84 The Close. Annual Return due today. THE ZIPSDIER CLOSE, MIDNIGHT

Zipsdier zips every mouth in the queue,
three months in one, and the forms are still due.

The Back of Zipsdier

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. The filing season opens on the 1st of Zipsdier and the month opens three times, in three filings of twenty-eight days each, because one opening was found, by long experience, to be insufficient warning. Rent is due. The first Deep City signup window opens. Stamp something. The season has begun and it keeps its own appointments.

3. The season's first Pseudo-Religious Service is a filing service: hymns are submitted in duplicate and sung from the stamped copy. The congregation's voices are recorded, which in this city is the same thing as being heard twice, once now and once forever.

4. The white moon is new over the First Filing. Begin the season in the dark like everyone else: by touch, by queue, by memory of where the windows are. The dark is refiled three times this month. You will get better at it.

6. The Howling Rites open the season as they open everything: in chorus, outdoors, at volume. In Zipsdier the Rites fall six times, once for each filing's rising, and the choirmaster calls this arrangement the season's spine. The neighbors call it other things, in harmony.

7. The Factions Tournament runs every Ghoulday of the season, twelve tables across three filings, and the standings are kept on a board too large for any one room, which is displayed in three rooms and argued about in all of them.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid three times in Zipsdier, once per filing. Bring two forms each time: six forms across the season, a complete set, which the clerks accept as a kind of devotion. Keep your receipts. The season is long and memory is a filing system with opinions.

11. Quarter moon over the First Filing. A quarter of the filing is filed, which the Bureau celebrates by stamping the quarter itself. Citizens are reminded that a quarter filed is not a quarter excused; the remaining three quarters know where you live.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions three times in Zipsdier, once per filing, and regulars are advised that the season's middle confession is historically the honest one. It does not absolve. It files. By the Third Filing, your file and its file agree about you, which citizens describe as a relief of an unusual shape.

14. Tournament, and stamps are provided at the tables — the season's courtesy, withdrawn in the Second Filing and mourned in the Third. Play proceeds at filing pace: every winning hand is recorded before it is celebrated, which has improved the celebrations and ruined several bluffs.

18. The moon is full over the First Filing and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their meeting by its light, filing their minutes in triplicate because the season demands it. They agree on nothing. The minutes are nevertheless identical, which the pamphleteers cite as their whole theology.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. In filing season the tickets are stamped at departure and again at return, and the two stamps never quite match, which the Bureau calls proof of travel. The escort does not answer questions. File them. Everything else down there is.

21. Tournament day, and card copies are accepted at the tables for the only time in the season: a filed copy of a card plays exactly as the original, provided the copy is stamped and the player believes in it at regulation strength. Appeals are heard at the door, by the door.

25. Quarter moon, and the First Filing leans toward its close. The Bureau reminds citizens that what is filed in the first twenty-eight days may be corrected in the second, at correction prices, and mourned in the third, free of charge.

28. The First Filing closes at sundown. The In-Transit House folds its monthly auction into filing business, and the First Filing's unclaimed things — unsigned intentions, one complete duplicate citizen-file, a staircase (buyer collects) — go under the hammer between the closing stamps.

29. The Second Filing opens. The Deep City signup window reopens for three days, because the season believes in second chances and files them in the middle. New ledgers are issued. The old ledgers are not collected. A citizen of Zipsdier carries both, and walks accordingly.

30. The Nawn Coalition patrols the Second Filing on new routes, filed the night before by clerks who have never walked them, on foot, in silence, looking at everything with no eyes. Do not wave. If a patrol route crosses your street twice in one night, the Bureau's position is that your street was interesting. Accept the compliment and draw the curtains.

32. The white moon is new again, the season's second dark, and citizens who began the First Filing by touch now navigate it by habit. The Bureau notes the improvement and files it under training, which is how the Bureau says grace.

35. The Junior High Lock-in & Retreat is held tonight, with the tournament running concurrently as is traditional. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. The guarantee is read aloud at the door, in full, by a clerk who does not pause at the arithmetic. The other parents have been notified.

37. The Aria Distribution Allowance, second payment. Bring two forms; keep the third filing's copies clean. The queue at Window 2 in the Second Filing is historically the season's most philosophical, and citizens are asked not to resolve anything permanent while standing in it.

39. Quarter moon, and half the season is filed: the exact midpoint of the longest month, marked by a stamp so heavy it is applied by two clerks and a lever. Citizens may watch. Watching is also filed.

41. The Elder Raven's second Confessional Hours of the season. The middle confession, the honest one. Bring the version of events you have been carrying since the First Filing and set it down. The Raven will file it where it belongs, which is rarely where you were carrying it.

42. Quarter Day, the season's hinge: the quarter-turn of the city's count falls inside Zipsdier's Second Filing this year, and the tournament plays at the bell. Balances are struck, rates are turned, and the Committee reminds citizens that a quarter is a direction as much as a fraction.

46. Reversed Inspection Day falls on the Second Filing's full moon, and the order of inspection is reversed: citizens inspect the Bureau. Windows are examined, drawers are opened by the public, the pamphleteers file their minutes from the other side of the counter, beautifully, and every finding is stamped by the inspected, which is the Bureau's one day of being filed. The moon, full, supervises both directions equally.

48. The escorted Deep City visit and the Howling Rites share the day, as they shared the season's first: descent by ticket in the afternoon, chorus by moonlight in the evening. Citizens returning from below howl with a notable steadiness. The choirmaster has stopped asking why.

49. The midseason table is the tournament's sternest appointment: only citizens whose forms are complete — all six, both filings — may sit. Play is excellent and appeals are rare, because everyone at the table has read everyone else's paperwork, and plays accordingly.

51. Other Skin Day in the Second Filing: skins are issued stamped this month, the season's one concession to traceability, and citizens spend the day as someone else under official seal. Return it by sundown, stamped, with the form. The stamp is the skin's own signature. Do not forge it, even kindly.

54. The Lost-and-Found Lottery. Once each season, the In-Transit House's unclaimed holdings that survived both filings' auctions are drawn by lot: describe what you have lost, in writing, and the House draws. Citizens win back coats, names, one (1) childhood address. What is not claimed by description was, the House rules, never truly lost. It was in transit. It is always in transit.

57. The Third Filing opens, the last of the season, and the final Deep City signup window opens with it, for three days only. After this window the year's remaining descents are by appointment with nobody. Sign up, or be content with the surface, which is also filed.

59. The Deep City signup window closes tonight, at the close of the service, and the last names of the season go onto the list. Citizens walking home afterward sometimes speak of a bus seen on the road out of the district, unlit, going somewhere the timetable does not keep. The Bureau files such reports under weather. Tomorrow the Linesong begins, and the city turns its face to older passengers than any bus.

60. Linesong, the first night, falls on the white moon's third new moon of the season: the darkest appointment of the year, kept deliberately. The city sings the names of its dead home, low, from the stamped copies, and the new moon is the correct light for it, which is to say none, which is to say the singing is the light.

61. Linesong, the second night. The names are sung home, the doors are left as the songs require, and the city is gentle with itself in a way it practices all year to afford for two nights. What citizens hear after the last name is their own business and is filed nowhere. The Bureau insists on this. It is the season's one privacy, and the Bureau guards it like a window.

63. Tournament in the Third Filing, and echoes are permitted at the tables for the only week of the season: a play may be answered by the room. The Linesong is two days past and the city's voice is still doubled. The standings, the clerks note, have never been more tenderly disputed.

65. The Aria Distribution Allowance, final payment of the season. Bring two forms; the set is complete. Citizens who have collected all three payments hold, in aggregate, the season's blessing in triplicate, and Window 2 stamps the aggregate once, gently, like closing a book.

67. Quarter moon over the Third Filing: the last quarter of the longest month. The Old Ones are not in this season's story at all, which the clerks note without relief. Some absences are also appointments. File accordingly.

69. The Elder Raven's final Confessional Hours of the season. The third confession is historically the quiet one: citizens set down what the year has made of them and the Raven files it in the year's own hand. It does not absolve. By now, nobody is asking it to. The filing is the absolution, and the season has taught everyone to hear it.

74. The moon is full for the last time in Zipsdier, and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth close their season's book at their meeting: three filings of minutes, agreed upon in no particular, bound in one volume. It is available at the door. It is the season's truest history and it contradicts itself on every page, in writing, beautifully.

76. The season's last escorted Deep City visit and its last Howling Rites share the day, the descent in the afternoon and the chorus after dark, and citizens who do both are stamped twice and howl once, which the choirmaster accepts as correct proportion.

79. The Council is in the building. This is known the way weather is known: the queues shorten themselves, the clerks' handwriting improves, and no one files anything frivolous for two days. The Closed Session follows on the 81st. The building does not announce the Council. The building behaves, and the behavior is the announcement.

81. The Council's Closed Session falls on the Third Filing's quarter moon. The Council of 9 sits; the doors are shut; the quarter moon keeps the corridor. What the Council files in closed session is filed. Citizens are reminded that the session is not a secret; it is a closure, which is a different instrument entirely, and older.

84. The Zipsdier Close. The season ends, the Third Filing shuts, and the Annual Return is due today, complete, in person, at the window that has been expecting you since the 1st. The last tournament table plays beside the queue. File everything. What is unfiled at the Close is carried into the next month by hand, by clerks, at carrying prices, and everyone in the city can hear the carrying.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon is a thin rind over a long season. Begin filed; there are three chances.

2. Watched, kindly, among fresh ledgers. The moon favors citizens who open cleanly.

3. The suns accept a hymn in duplicate. Sing once; be heard twice.

4. New moon. The season's first dark page. Write nothing you cannot file three times.

5. A sliver returns. So does the queue. Join both early; both reward the early.

6. A loud night opens the season. The young moon approves of a filed chorus.

7. The moon of errands backs the season's first table. Play the stamped card.

8. Small light, open drawers. Someone is checking whether you are ready. You are.

9. The suns are generous before noon. Collect, collect again later, keep every receipt.

10. A hymn in duplicate finishes itself in your mouth. Let it; it has been stamped.

11. Quarter moon: a quarter filed. The lit quarter favors the citizen who initials it.

12. Be misfiled kindly today. The growing moon enjoys one honest error per season.

13. Confess upward. The moon keeps first confessions in the season's front pocket.

14. A contest favors the stamped. The moon has seen your copies and approves the set.

15. Midfiling moon. Your file's opinions are provisional. So, today, are yours. Good.

16. Watched between the shelves. The moon's white eye is on the patrol's long route.

17. Pens down, voices up. The waxing moon records the service in its own hand.

18. Full moon over the First Filing. Everything is visible, including your minutes.

19. Make the duplicate under a kind moon. Copies made today outlast their originals.

20. Below the city, the moon cannot follow. One hour of unobserved luck. Stamp it gently.

21. The moon wanes over legal copies. Play the copy you believe in at regulation strength.

22. Blessed ink, thinning moon. Write the important thing before the blessing dries.

23. A grievance filed early ripens well. The moon advises the second one, the true one.

24. All queues sing under this moon. Your place in yours is a note; hold it.

25. Quarter moon. The First Filing leans shut. What leans can still be initialed.

26. The moon keeps what you lend. It does not keep stamps. Neither should you.

27. Eve light, checking light. The waning moon favors citizens who count their copies.

28. The First Filing closes under a darkening moon. What is unclaimed was never filed.

29. A thin moon over a fresh opening. Begin again; the season permits it in the middle.

30. New routes, old light. Watched, kindly, on unfamiliar stairs. Walk like a citizen.

31. The suns open the second season of service. The small moon takes the minutes.

32. New moon, the season's second dark. By now your hands know the windows by touch.

33. Begin the appeal under a returning sliver. Early sorrows file cheaper.

34. The second chorus rises. The young moon approves of practice: louder, together.

35. Locked doors, kind moon. Count who goes in; count who returns; toast the arithmetic.

36. The scholars return under a waxing moon. Greet every one you can name. Name them all.

37. The suns pay twice in a season like this. Collect the second with both hands.

38. A quiet filing under a growing moon. The softest service is also recorded.

39. Quarter moon at the season's waist. Half of you is filed. The rest is expected.

40. The halfway stamp lands on your week. The moon suggests standing where it lands well.

41. Confess in the middle. The honest moon is up; it keeps the middle copy on top.

42. Quarter Day. The turning moon favors turned balances and games played at the bell.

43. Compared, and found similar. The moon wanes over the comparing clerks, gently.

44. Watched on the midseason route. The moon's eye is patient; so is the patrol.

45. The deep hymn under a thinning moon. Sing it from below your own floor.

46. Full moon, reversed. Today you are the window. Let the city look in, briefly.

47. Findings sealed under a waning moon. What was inspected in you rests now.

48. Descent, then chorus. The moon cannot follow below, so it waits with the howlers.

49. The midseason table favors the citizen who kept all six forms. The moon kept count.

50. Bright teeth, audited rates. Bargains struck today are struck twice, fairly.

51. A borrowed shape, officially stamped. The moon signs the seal and says nothing.

52. Any skin is welcome under this moon. Worship as issued; return as yourself.

53. Quarter moon. The season leans forward. Lean with it; the floor is filed.

54. Describe what you lost exactly. The waning moon returns things to the precise.

55. Eve light again. Count the copies by moonlight; the moon counts with you.

56. The Second Filing closes. What was almost filed is auctioned as almost. Fair.

57. The last opening. A thin rind of moon over the Third Filing. Begin finally.

58. Watched on the last routes. The moon walks the patrol's final rounds beside you.

59. Sign before the moon does. Tonight the list closes and the road empties early.

60. New moon, the year's darkest appointment. Sing low. The singing is the light.

61. The names come home under no moon at all. Listen at your own door. That is all.

62. Howl softly tonight. The sliver returns like a guest who knows the house.

63. Echoes are permitted under this moon. Play as if the season were listening. It is.

64. The clerks hum at their stamping. The growing moon keeps the tune in triplicate.

65. The third payment completes a set. The suns are generous; be complete by noon.

66. The long hymn under a waxing moon. It finishes itself across two evenings. Let it.

67. Quarter moon: the season's last quarter lit. Initial what remains of you.

68. Be filed beside someone kind. The moon arranges the shelves more gently now.

69. Confess a final time. The nearly-full moon files the quiet version on top.

70. The standings narrow under a brightening moon. Play like the season is watching.

71. Watched on the final rounds. The moon's white eye is almost full and entirely kind.

72. Rain in the paperwork. The growing moon advises sleeves, witnesses, a dry copy.

73. The old hymn under an old light. The suns and the moon agree for once. Sing.

74. Full moon over the Third Filing. The book of minutes closes. Everything is visible.

75. Correct under a waning moon; corrections made now are the ones the year keeps.

76. The last descent, the last chorus. One hour below, one hour aloud. Correct proportion.

77. The final table forms under a thinning moon. The season deals; play the true card.

78. Counted twice, blessed twice. The moon favors the citizen whose copies agree.

79. The Council is near and unseen. The moon keeps the corridor and its counsel.

80. The filing hymn. The suns accept the season's last service in triplicate.

81. Quarter moon over a closed door. What is decided behind it was decided for you.

82. Stamped elsewhere, arriving soon. The waning moon carries decisions like weather.

83. Eve of the Close. Sharpen your signature under a thin moon. It will be read.

84. The season's accounts close. File everything. The dark that follows is next month's.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. telnos — a calendar — The season itself, bound. Carry it like a shield and a schedule.

2. nosnar — a filed name — Yours, freshly ledged. Pronounce it steadily all season.

3. selen — sing; file; record — The service's instruction and the season's. Do both at once.

4. morilsil — a moonless night — Three of them this month. This is the first. Sing low.

5. on — seal — What dawn queues are for. Watch yours dry before you move.

6. parmor — a whisper — The Rites begin as one. In Zipsdier they end as a chorus.

7. witel — a Twist — Tournament currency, all season. Handle the season's twists doubly.

8. ilven — window — Every drawer has one today, in a sense. Look kindly into each.

9. vavas — a queue — Window 2's liturgy, three times this season. Reverence, twice over.

10. hallen — a friend — For the one who holds your place while you fetch the second hymn.

11. sev — place; ground — Indicate exactly where the quarter was filed. Precisely.

12. halver — a thief — Today's gentle reading: whoever misfiled you did it on purpose, kindly.

13. morfe — a raven — First of three audiences this season. The Elder remembers the set.

14. verlen — an enemy; a former love — File today's opponent under the gentler reading. Twelve tables is a long season.

15. nos — paper; record — Your file's opinions are printed in it. Disagree in pencil.

16. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — For the patrol between the shelves. Do not upgrade it to a wave.

17. am — I, the one singing now — Pens down. Know who is singing the stamped copy.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers file theirs in triplicate. Match them or yield.

19. vasru — a deed — What a good duplicate becomes. Make one worth deeding.

20. kaelven — the gate — Below it, the stamped dark. The keeper keeps two stamps now.

21. telwi — a Twist (alternate form) — For the copy-table: the same value, filed differently.

22. esh — fire — What blessed ink is warmed over. Unofficially. Keep your pages back.

23. mora — memory; remember — For the second grievance, the true one. It has been waiting.

24. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — All queues sing. This is the word they sing in.

25. thil — yes — The quarter word. Say it when the filing leans and you lean with it.

26. ul — debt, obligation — What a lent stamp becomes. Say it before you lend anything.

27. nosru — a date — Tomorrow's, checked twice. Eve words are for checking.

28. lin sòlla sar — thirteen (2×5+3) — Count the First Filing's days in one breath at the close.

29. Sháramor, morven — tomorrow, at dusk — The Second Filing, exactly. The season says it for you.

30. venhal — a guard — For the patrol on its new routes. Nod once, at patrol pace.

31. dorne — a guest — For the second season's first service supper guest. Seat them early.

32. mor — dark, shadow — The refiled kind. You navigate it by habit now.

33. lir — open, reveal; find — What an early appeal does. Say it at the window, hopefully.

34. ala — water — What the second chorus is carried on. Drink before the howling.

35. neselen — a child — Count them out loud tonight, going in and coming out. The Retreat appreciates it.

36. moraeth — nostalgia — What the returned scholars bring home in their pockets. File it gently.

37. ulvor — settlement — The second payment's true name. Collect it as one.

38. sil — silent, secret; hide — The quiet filing's method. The service hears you anyway.

39. fel sòlla — twenty (4×5) — Half the season, in one number and one heavy stamp.

40. vastel — elapsed time — The halfway word: what the lever and the two clerks measure. Stand still for it.

41. selenrin — the Auditor's work — What the middle confession undergoes. Do not watch it happen.

42. os — teeth, bone (currency) — Quarter Day turns on them. Count yours at the bell.

43. verthil — a frayed truth — What a mismatched copy is called, never to its face.

44. kael — city — The patrol's whole parish, midseason. Name it as you pass through it.

45. thursev — a mountain — What the deep hymn is sung from under. There is one below everything.

46. lir — open, reveal; find — Inspection reversed: today the word opens the Bureau. Use it softly.

47. on — seal — What the findings receive. Yours dries by morning.

48. vas — go, walk — Down by ticket, up by chorus. The day's whole instruction.

49. nosselen — a clerk — The midseason table is run by them. Address them by title; they kept your forms.

50. vor — pay, price — Ask it twice today; the rates are audited and so is the asking.

51. hem — flesh — Today's, stamped. The seal makes it official; sundown makes it brief.

52. thurselen — an elder — For whoever your borrowed shape is greeted as at the service. Bow correctly.

53. vastel — elapsed time — The season leaning forward is made of it. Do not lean back.

54. nosver — forgery — What the Lottery is NOT for. Describe truly; the House can tell.

55. sòlla sòlla sar — twenty-eight — One filing, whole, in one number. Count your copies against it.

56. morven — dusk; the Back Door — Where the Second Filing exits. It is a place as much as an hour.

57. venon — a deadline — The Third Filing is made of one. Say it like a friend. It is.

58. venhal — a guard — For the last routes of the patrol. Walk like a citizen with a season.

59. ven — door, gate, threshold — The list closes at one tonight. After: the road, and what is seen on it.

60. selenmor — redaction — Tonight's singing leaves the right silences. Honor them by name.

61. nar — true name — Sung home, low, on the second night. Never write it in the margin.

62. Sil. — quiet — The Rites' instruction, this once only. It is also a whole word. Use the whole of it.

63. parfe — a parrot — The festival kind memorizes; the wooden kind counts. Echoes belong to both.

64. Momora — the Index — What the humming clerks are, between stamps, keeping. Hum along at your window.

65. fe — feather, wing (currency) — The final payment may come in these. Count them at the window, aloud.

66. tel — time; a minute — The long hymn spends them like a rich citizen. Be spent gladly.

67. sharamor — a day; today — This one, in the last quarter. Spend it initialed.

68. dor — house, holding — For the neighbor you are filed beside. A holding is a kindness with walls.

69. morfe — a raven — Third audience. The Elder files the quiet version on top now.

70. harr — strike, fight — The table word for the narrowing standings. Use it only at the table.

71. thur — ancient — What the final rounds are patrolled by, in feeling if not in fact.

72. ala — water — For the rain in the paperwork. Keep the true copy dry; let the others swim.

73. shàramor — yesterday — The old hymn lives there. Sing it forward anyway.

74. kaelam — a human — What the pamphleteers call the audience, formally, closing their book.

75. ver — fray, break — What a last correction mends. Correct before the fray is filed.

76. kaelven — the gate — The last descent's. The keeper stamps you out as gently as in.

77. Am selen nar — the first lesson — The final table teaches it again. It is always the first lesson.

78. lin — two — Copies, blessings, counts. Two of everything true, counted twice tonight.

79. sil — silent, secret; hide — The Council's corridor word. Walk it without spending any.

80. amsolla — I, all of me; I swear it — The filing hymn's signature. Sing it like the whole season is listening.

81. onmaran — a law — What a closed session produces. It will be read to you in due course.

82. nostel — recorded time — Where the decision already is. Yours arrives by post and by weather.

83. narver — un-naming — Eve word: what the Close can do to the unsigned. Sign, and keep your name.

84. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — The season's last word, and the Annual Return's. Spend both at Window 4.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE FILING SEASON (opens the 1st).

Zipsdier is the triple month: three filings of twenty-eight days, one season, one long act of attention. The Bureau opens the season the way it opens a drawer — completely, and with both hands. Citizens are issued new ledgers and keep their old ones. By the Third Filing everyone is carrying the whole season on their person, and the city's posture changes, and the chiropractors of the In-Transit House do very well, and this, too, is filed. THE JUNIOR HIGH LOCK-IN & RETREAT (the 35th). The season's quarterly sitting of the young. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely; the guarantee is read aloud at the door, in full, without pausing at the arithmetic, and the tournament plays concurrently in the hall so that the evening has, at all times, exactly one more sound than expected. The children who return safely are stamped RETURNED. The others are stamped, and the stamp is also kind. QUARTER DAY (the 42nd). The quarter-turn of the city's count, falling this year inside the Second Filing. Balances are struck at the bell; rates turn; the heavy halfway stamp is demonstrated as a public service. Citizens speak of Quarter Day the way sailors speak of a headland: everything before it was approach, everything after it is consequence, and the tournament plays through both weathers without a break in the standings. REVERSED INSPECTION DAY (the 46th). Once a season, on a full moon, the order is reversed and the citizens inspect the Bureau: the windows, the drawers, the stamps, the stampers. Findings are filed by the public and stamped by the inspected. The Bureau endures the day with grace and has been observed, on the 47th, quietly re-inspecting itself, which the Committee rules is the day working exactly as designed. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 51st). Skins are issued in the Second Filing under seal — the season's one concession to traceability. You will be someone else until sundown, officially, and the person you are being will be filed as having been you, briefly, in a hand not their own. Return the skin by sundown, stamped, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep. The stamp on it is the Bureau's, and the Bureau's position is that some sympathies require supervision. THE LOST-AND-FOUND LOTTERY (the 54th). The In-Transit House holds one lottery each season for the holdings that survived two auctions unclaimed. Entry is a written description of a thing you have lost. The House draws in public, at the long table, and citizens win back what the description fits: coats, umbrellas, names of streets, one (1) childhood address per season, no more. A description that fits nothing is kept by the House and read aloud on quiet evenings, which the House maintains is also a form of return. THE EVE OF LINESONG (the 59th). The signup window for the Deep City closes at nightfall, and the city goes home early and quietly, the way a house does before guests arrive whose names the house still remembers. Citizens sometimes report a bus on the road out of the district that night, unlit, unhurried, keeping no timetable the Bureau keeps. The Bureau files the reports under weather. Nothing further is printed here, by order older than the Committee. Tomorrow the singing starts. LINESONG (the 60th–61st). For two nights the city sings its dead home. The names are read from the stamped copies and sung low, street by street, in the order they were filed in life, and the doors are kept as the songs require. It is the city's own observance and its oldest one, older than the Bureau, which merely — and proudly — keeps the copies. No citizen is required to sing. Every citizen is given the words. On the second night the last name is sung, and after it there is a silence the Bureau does not file, has never filed, and guards with the whole weight of its stamps. What the silence holds is the city's. It is not the calendar's to say. THE COUNCIL'S CLOSED SESSION (the 81st). The Council of 9 sits in the Third Filing, behind shut doors, under the quarter moon. A closed session is not a secret; it is a closure, a different and older instrument, and what issues from it arrives by the usual channels, stamped, in due course. Citizens are asked not to knock. The quarter moon keeps the corridor, and has never once reported what it heard, which is why it is given the corridor. THE CLOSE (the 84th). The season ends. The Third Filing shuts, the Annual Return is due at the window that has expected you since the 1st, and the last tournament table plays beside the last queue of the month. File everything: the season does not accept luggage. What remains unfiled at the Close is carried into the next

month by hand, by clerks, at carrying prices — and the whole city can hear the carrying, and counts it, the way it counts everything, kindly and exactly.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Zipsdier is the third month and the long one: eighty-four days, three filings of twenty-eight, the filing season itself, when the city's paperwork is not the accompaniment to life but, for a quarter of the year, its main event, and citizens schedule their weddings, feuds, and renovations around the openings and closings the way farmers schedule around rain. The Office's account is that Zipsdier was always triple: some months hold a season, and this one holds the season of holding. The street's account is more tired. The street says Zipsdier is three months wearing one name because the Bureau ran out of names in the year it ran out of everything else, and the three filings agreed to share. That the season carries the year's heaviest observances — the Lottery, the Lock-in, the Reversed Inspection, the Linesong, the Close — is filed as coincidence by the Office and as load-bearing by everyone who has lived through it. The dead are sung home in Zipsdier because the filings keep the truest copies of their names. That is not an etymology. That is a use, and the Committee prints it as one. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the sound of its work — the quick, repeated closing of things, drawers and files and doors, three to a breath, all season long — though the Office does not write the sound down and has fined clerks for imitating it at the windows. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed in three places: the month is named for a clerk, the first Keeper of the Third Filing, who signed with a flourish no one has successfully copied since, and the name is the flourish, spelled as well as anyone could. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The Raven, asked directly, filed the question under the season, where it remains, between the second and third copies.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — LEFT STEPS. Effective the 1st of Zipsdier, the daily allowance of left steps is held unchanged for the whole season, all three filings, in recognition of the distances involved. The ravens are counting. Citizens walking between filings are reminded that the left steps of one filing do not spend in another. The ravens know which filing you are in. The ravens always know. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. Filing season is not an amnesty. Triplicate is not a defense. This notice is printed monthly at the Council's request and the Committee's expense, and in Zipsdier it is printed three times, once per filing, of which this is the one that counts. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — ZIPSDIER EMPHASIS. This season's watched allowances: tears shed (raised without limit during Linesong; the parrots do not count what is shed while singing, a ruling older than the Committee, renewed each season without discussion), scratches when itching, and feelings of being annoyed at queues. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and who work the season in three shifts, like everyone else. MANDATE REPORT — THE ANNUAL RETURN. Citizens are reminded that the Annual Return falls due on the 84th, the Close, complete and in person. Partial returns are filed as partial citizens for the purposes of the following month. Assistance is available at every window. It has been available since the 1st. The windows remember who came early kindly, and who came at the Close accurately.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

ZIP & SONS, KEEPERS OF THE THIRD COPY — One free duplicate of any document, filing season only, stamped while you wait. The third copy is the one that survives. We have always said so. Now it is a coupon. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE LONG TABLE CAFETERIA, BUREAU ARCADE — Season ticket: one soup per filing, three soups, one price. Soup is served to citizens and to files awaiting citizens. No soup is issued after the Close. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MADAME OKT'S LOST & FOUND PARLOR — One free description written, Lottery week, by our licensed describer. If the House's drawer holds it, our words will fit it. Descriptions are final. Longing is itemized free. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

FILING SEASON BRIEFING · ZIPSDIER 1–84

Zipsdier

Eighty-four days, because that is how long it takes. The Bureau's position is that it would be shorter if citizens filed on time, and that this position has never been tested.

THE HEADMASTER'S BRIEFING

Zipsdier. Every errand costs two. I have planned this month at half speed so that it will appear on time.

Due by midnight on the 84th: Annual Return. H-8. Standing orders, D-3s included. 9-B. Census. Order the forms now. The forms run out on the 3rd. They always run out on the 3rd.

DUE BY THE CLOSE · GHOULDAY, ZIPSDIER 84, MIDNIGHT

- ☐ Form AR-1 · the Annual Return · Declared, Owed, Witnessed
- ☐ Form H-8 · the annual record of whom one hates
- ☐ Every standing order, D-3s included
- ☐ Form 9-B · from every unregistered musician
- ☐ The census · which will again count one more citizen than the records allow

> Rule: the queue. During Zipsdier, any errand that needs an office takes two errands. Whatever is unfiled at midnight on the 84th is late.

OBSERVED IN ZIPSDIER

Zipsdier 1	Filing season opens · any errand needing an office costs two
Zipsdier 42	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided
Zipsdier 46	Reversed Inspection Day
Zipsdier 54	Lost-and-Found Lottery
Zipsdier 60–61	Linesong
Zipsdier 81	The Council's Closed Session · the year's filings ratified
Zipsdier 84	The Zipsdier Close, midnight · Annual Return, H-8, standing orders, 9-B, census due

TO GET

- AR-1 ×2 (one to file, one to ruin)
- H-8 ×1 (Dregg)
- D-3s, as many as the window will issue on the 2nd, before they run out on the 3rd
- 9-B, blank, for musicians I may meet in the queue
- A folding stool (queue)
- Lunch, three months of it, in installments
- Exact change ×3 (19th, 40th, 71st)
- Twists, two, in case the queue needs to be undone

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Zipsdier runs from Friday 3 September 2027 to Thursday 25 November 2027, outside.

ZIPSDIER · THE FIRST FILING · DAYS 1–28

The First Filing

FORM CAL-1 · ZIPSDIER 1–28

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 FILING SEASON OPENS	2	3	4 ●	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 ◑	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ○	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 ◐	26	27	28



ZIPS 19

OBSERVED IN THIS FILING

Zipsdier 1	Filing season opens · any errand needing an office costs two

THE WHITE MOON

● Zipsdier 4 new · ◑ Zipsdier 11 first quarter · ○ Zipsdier 18 full · ◐ Zipsdier 25 last quarter

NOTES

ZIPSDIER · THE FIRST FILING · LEDGER

Filing Ledger

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The queue at Window 4 is the first filing's only weather. Log it.

QUEUE LOG

DAY	POSITION	MOVED	NOTES
ZIPSDIER 1			
ZIPSDIER 2			
ZIPSDIER 3			
ZIPSDIER 4			
ZIPSDIER 5			
ZIPSDIER 6			
ZIPSDIER 7			
ZIPSDIER 8			
ZIPSDIER 9			
ZIPSDIER 10			
ZIPSDIER 11			
ZIPSDIER 12			
ZIPSDIER 13			
ZIPSDIER 14			
ZIPSDIER 15			
ZIPSDIER 16			
ZIPSDIER 17			
ZIPSDIER 18			
ZIPSDIER 19			
ZIPSDIER 20			
ZIPSDIER 21			
ZIPSDIER 22			
ZIPSDIER 23			
ZIPSDIER 24			
ZIPSDIER 25			
ZIPSDIER 26			
ZIPSDIER 27			
ZIPSDIER 28			

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 1 DAY 57 OF 392

FILING SEASON OPENS · ANY ERRAND NEEDING AN OFFICE COSTS TWO RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Queve begins. Join it.

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 2 DAY 58 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 3 DAY 59 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

The forms have run out. Noted on the 3rd, as predicted.

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 4 DAY 60 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 5 DAY 61 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 6 DAY 62 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 7 DAY 63 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Queve has moved four citizens. One of them was me. I have filed this as progress.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 8 DAY 64 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 9 DAY 65 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 10 DAY 66 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 11 DAY 67 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Window 4. Attend the queue by memo. My memo has been placed in the queue. It is ahead of me.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 12 DAY 68 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 13 DAY 69 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 14 DAY 70 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 15 DAY 71 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Good: let a clerk go first. Evil: the clerk was behind me.
Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 16 DAY 72 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 17 DAY 73 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 18 DAY 74 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers. Full moon. They disagreed in moonlight, which is more official.

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 19 DAY 75 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

The farmer's coin. If it is one, the queue will not move. If it is not, the queue will not move. The coin is irrelevant to the queue.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 20 DAY 76 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 21 DAY 77 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

19

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 22 DAY 78 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Halfway through the first filing. The forms remain out. The queue remains in.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 23 DAY 79 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 24 DAY 80 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 25 DAY 81 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Gornola: one reading in three. Ask three times. Keep the second.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 26 DAY 82 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 27 DAY 83 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 28 DAY 84 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lot 14. Do not bid during filing season. (Noted. Bid sent.)

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Twists — keep one at all times. Do not use it.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

ZIPSDIER · THE SECOND FILING · DAYS 29–56

The Second Filing

FORM CAL-1 · ZIPSDIER 29–56

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
29	30	31	32 ●	33	34	35
36	37	38	39 ◑	40	41	42 ▲ QUARTER DAY
43	44	45	46 ○ REVERSED INSPECTION DAY	47	48	49
50	51	52	53 ◐	54 LOST-AND-FOUND LOTTERY	55	56

ZIPS 40

OBSERVED IN THIS FILING

Zipsdier 42	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided
Zipsdier 46	Reversed Inspection Day
Zipsdier 54	Lost-and-Found Lottery

THE WHITE MOON

● Zipsdier *32* new · ◑ Zipsdier *39* first quarter · ○ Zipsdier *46* full · ◐ Zipsdier *53* last quarter

NOTES

ZIPSDIER · THE SECOND FILING · LEDGER

Filing Ledger

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The Second Filing carries three observances by the Council's relief order. Relief is compulsory.

Quarter Day on the 42nd: the approved history is revised. Read the old one first, for comparison. It will not be available afterward.

FILING LEDGER

FORM	DUE	FILED	WITNESS
Form AR-1	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Form H-8	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Standing orders · D-35	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Form 9-B	Zipsdier 84	☐	
The census	Zipsdier 84	☐	
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	

NOTES

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 29 DAY 85 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Rent. During filing season, rent is also a form.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 30 DAY 86 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 31 DAY 87 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 32 DAY 88 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Good: filled out a form for a citizen who could not reach the window. Evil: filled it out correctly.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 33 DAY 89 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 34 DAY 90 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 35 DAY 91 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

The queue has developed a dialect.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 36 DAY 92 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 37 DAY 93 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 38 DAY 94 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 39 DAY 95 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 40 DAY 96 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Second coin of the month. The farmer is thorough in Zipsdier. So is everyone.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 41 DAY 97 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 42 DAY 98 OF 392

▲ QUARTER DAY · HISTORY REVISED · MISPRINTS BURNED · THE ELDER'S PETITION DECIDED

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Quarter Day. The Printing Company burns its misprints at dusk. Stand upwind. The Petition to Relocate the Elder is decided. Learn the result before the Elder does.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

40

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 43 DAY 99 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

History revised. I have re-read the previous week. It went better than I remember.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 44 DAY 100 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 45 DAY 101 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 46 DAY 102 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

REVERSED INSPECTION DAY THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Reversed Inspection Day. Clipboards issued to the young. Have my papers in order. Have a second set of papers in order, for the second inspector.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 47 DAY 103 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Inspection findings received. Penmanship: "acceptable, for an adult." Filed with pride.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 48 DAY 104 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 49 DAY 105 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

The Second Filing carries three observances by the Council's relief order. The Council has found that a city that has filed for six weeks needs something to look forward to, or it begins filing complaints instead, which takes longer.

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Reversed Inspection Day

MOONSDAY, ZIPSDIER 46

Every citizen under the age of majority is issued a clipboard and may inspect the paperwork of one adult of their choosing. The adult must accept the findings. Findings stand until midnight. The adult may appeal on the following day, by which time the inspector has usually lost interest, and the appeal is filed as moot.

- The Issuing of the Clipboards at the morning bell. Clipboards are returned at sundown, and are always returned with more pages than they left with.
- The Standard Findings. By long custom the most common findings are: *adult has not drunk water today; adult's handwriting acceptable, for an adult; adult's room needs attention.* The Index files them without comment.
- "Findings accepted." Adults sign each finding in the inspector's presence. Adults who sign without reading are re-inspected, which is the day's only real penalty.
- The Golden Clipboard. At sundown it is awarded to the young inspector whose findings were most correct. The adults judge, and they never agree.

At the table: a young inspector has found something genuinely wrong in an official's papers, and nobody will believe a child holding a clipboard. The party might.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 50 DAY 106 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Lost-and-Found Lottery entries close. Enter. One does not choose what one wins.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 51 DAY 107 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 52 DAY 108 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 53 DAY 109 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 54 DAY 110 OF 392

LOST-AND-FOUND LOTTERY

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

The Lottery. Bring a bag of no particular size.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 55 DAY 111 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Won: a left glove, a key to an unnamed door, and somebody's very good umbrella. The umbrella has been filed as mine.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 56 DAY 112 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Lost-and-Found Lottery

TWINSDAY, ZIPSDIER 54

Everything left unclaimed in the city's lost-and-found for a full year is given away by lot. Entries are free. Citizens do not choose what they win. Every citizen who enters goes home with something they never lost. Twinsday is chosen because every item has, in a sense, been duplicated: once lost, and once found.

- The Bag of No Particular Size. Citizens bring a bag sized for nothing in particular. Bringing a bag sized for something is considered unlucky, and is.
- One day's use. Whatever you win, you use for one full day before deciding whether to keep it: the umbrella in sun, the key on every door you pass, the single glove on either hand.
- The Claim-Back. An item's original owner may reclaim it only by telling, in public, how it was lost. The best story of the day wins its teller a second draw.
- The Last Item. Each year one item is never claimed and never won. It is kept on a shelf in the Lottery hall, and nobody asks what it is.

At the table: a party member wins a key, and the key fits something.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

ZIPSDIER · THE THIRD FILING · DAYS 57–84

The Third Filing

FORM CAL-1 · ZIPSDIER 57–84

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
57	58	59 THE BUS	60 ● LINESONG	61	62	63
64 FILING DAY OF RECORD	65	66	67 ◑	68	69	70
71	72	73	74 ○	75	76	77
78	79	80	81 ◐ THE COUNCIL'S CLOSED SESSION	82	83	84 THE ZIPSDIER CLOSE, MIDNIGHT



ZIPS 71

OBSERVED IN THIS FILING

Zipsdier 60–61	Linesong
Zipsdier 81	The Council's Closed Session · the year's filings ratified
Zipsdier 84	The Zipsdier Close, midnight · Annual Return, H-8, standing orders, 9-B, census due

THE WHITE MOON

● Zipsdier 60 new · ◑ Zipsdier 67 first quarter · ○ Zipsdier 74 full · ◐ Zipsdier 81 last quarter

NOTES

ZIPSDIER · THE THIRD FILING · LEDGER

Filing Ledger

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Final filing. Linesong on the 60th and 61st. The queue moves faster if the song is good. Practise.

Closed Session, 81. The year's filings ratified. Mine among them.

FILING LEDGER

FORM	DUE	FILED	WITNESS
Form AR-1	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Form H-8	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Standing orders · D-35	Zipsdier 84	☐	
Form 9-B	Zipsdier 84	☐	
The census	Zipsdier 84	☐	
		☐	
		☐	
		☐	

NOTES

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 57 DAY 113 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Rent.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 58 DAY 114 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 59 DAY 115 OF 392

Seen, before dawn, at the pumps on the Zipsdier road: a bus. LOS MUERTOS painted on its side. Fuel taken on; legs stretched; gone by Counter Hours.

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

The bus again, on its yearly run. Forty-one passengers, all deceased, all in good spirits. They took on fuel, used the facilities, which they did not strictly need, and walked the forecourt to stretch their legs. Several carried marigolds. One asked the clerk whether the bread where they were going would be as sweet as last year; the clerk did not know, and was forgiven. They are expected somewhere, every year, at tables already set. The driver would not say where. He said only that it was a long way, and that the candles would be lit. Filed under Traffic.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 60 DAY 116 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

LINESONG · FIRST DAY

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Linesong. The queue sang. It moved eleven places. The song was about the queue.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 61 DAY 117 OF 392

LINESONG · SECOND DAY

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Linesong, second day. The queue sang it again, in harmony with yesterday. It moved twelve places. Twinsday improves everything.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 62 DAY 118 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 63 DAY 119 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Linesong

ZIPSDIER 60–61

On two days in the third filing, those waiting in the queue at Window 4 may sing. The queue moves faster if the song is good. The Bureau has declined to explain how it measures good. On the second day, a Twinsday, the songs are sung again in harmony with the first day's copy, and the queue moves faster still. It is the only time in the year that filing season is beautiful, and the clerks have asked that this not be put in writing.

- The Opening Note is struck by the first citizen in line at dawn on the 60th. That citizen is held in honor for the year, and must hold the note longer than is comfortable.
- Queue songs are written in advance by families, practised all year, and sung only once. Repeating one in a later year is permitted but frowned upon.
- The harmony day. On the 61st, families sing yesterday's song against its own echo, and the queue joins in from both ends.
- The clerks do not sing. They have never sung. One year a clerk was seen to hum. It is the most discussed event in the history of Window 4.

At the table: a song sung in the queue has done what songs do in Montavera, which is more than the singer intended.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 64 DAY 120 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Dregg. File opened on the day the H-8s open. He receives the first one every year, and tips. Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 65 DAY 121 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 66 DAY 122 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Census forms. Count the household. Count it again. The extra citizen is invited to identify themselves.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 67 DAY 123 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 68 DAY 124 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 69 DAY 125 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 70 DAY 126 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Good: stood still for the census. Evil: twice.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

More GD-1. I have been good more often than budgeted.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

71

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 71 DAY 127 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Coin. Exact change on hand. Also a spare set, for the queue.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 72 DAY 128 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 73 DAY 129 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 74 DAY 130 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

H-8: Dregg. He tips well. Filed regardless.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 75 DAY 131 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 76 DAY 132 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 77 DAY 133 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Annual Return drafted. Declared, Owed, Witnessed. The Witnessed column requires a witness. I have been unable to find one. I have witnessed it myself, from a slight distance.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Zipsdier 78 DAY 134 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Zipsdier 79 DAY 135 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Zipsdier 80 DAY 136 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Zipsdier 81 DAY 137 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

THE COUNCIL'S CLOSED SESSION · THE YEAR'S FILINGS RATIFIED

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Closed Session. Attendance by paper. The agenda cannot be bought. Several have tried. Their attempts are on the agenda.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Zipsdier 82 DAY 138 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Zipsdier 83 DAY 139 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

File the Return. File the H-8. File the D-35. File a note confirming all three were filed.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Zipsdier 84 DAY 140 OF 392

THE ZIPSDIER CLOSE, MIDNIGHT · ANNUAL RETURN, H-8, STANDING ORDERS, 9-B, CENSUS DUE IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

The Close at midnight. Whatever is unfiled is late. I am not late. I have checked twice; the second check was late.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

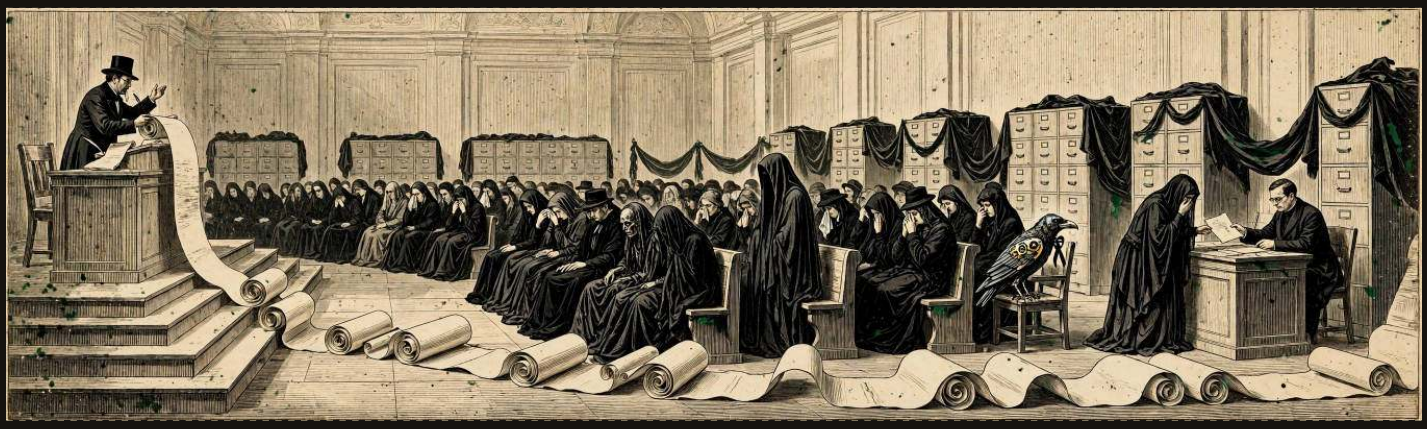
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE FOURTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 141–168 OF THE YEAR

MOURNDIER

Late autumn · The mortality rolls are read

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 CO-SIGNING DAY Rent. Co-Signing Day. Deep City signups open.	2 Sign for someone else. Carefully.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Sign the hymnbook.	4 ○ THE MORTALITY ROLLS ARE READ FILING DAY OF RECORD New moon. The mortality rolls are read.	5 The rolls continue. Check your spelling.	6 Community Howling Rites. In memoriam.	7 Factions Tournament. Winners co-sign.
8 Coupon day at the cemetery	9 Aria Distribution. Bring a witness.	10 Repetition Day: Hendiber the 3rd, again.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half the rolls are read.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Walk slower.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 Factions Tournament. Played in black.
15 BAZAAR OF SECOND PRICES Bazaar of Second Prices. Haggle twice.	16 A good day to owe less than yesterday.	17 Don't Sleep Day. Just don't	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers read the rolls.	19 Return borrowed grief by sundown.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. One hour only.	21 Factions Tournament. Losers are mourned.
22 Other Skin Day. Someone else's luck.	23 The cemetery returns coupons today.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. Bring a candle.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The rolls are re-filed.	26 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Stand still.	27 Favorable day for a second opinion.	28 Factions Tournament. The auction after.

MOUR 20

Mourndier reads out the roll, and the bill;
Gloomber stays gloomy, and gloomier still.

The Back of Mourndier

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Co-Signing Day. Every filing of the new season opens with two signatures: yours, and one citizen who agrees, in writing, to be sorry alongside you if it goes wrong. Rent is also due, and the Deep City signup window opens, because Mourndier believes a month should begin with all its obligations holding hands.

2. If you signed for someone yesterday, today is for checking what you signed. The Bureau permits one careful look. The Bureau recommends it.

4. On the new moon the mortality rolls are read aloud at the district office: every citizen filed as deceased in the season past, in alphabetical order, at a respectful pace. The Council grieves and invoices in the same sitting. Attendance is not required. Absence is noted kindly, and then it is noted.

5. The reading continues by district until every name has had its turn. Citizens are encouraged to check the spelling of their own entry in advance. Corrections filed by the deceased are accepted without comment. Corrections filed by the living are accepted with one.

6. The Howling Rites this month are held in memoriam, outdoors, at the usual pitch. Citizens who did not know the deceased are welcome. In Mourndier, that is most of the howling, and it is considered the finest kind.

7. The weekly tournament opens the season. Winners co-sign the losers' condolence forms, which is the tournament's oldest rule and the reason everyone plays carefully.

8. Coupon day at the cemetery. The groundskeepers accept the Committee's coupons for plot-side services, wreath adjustments, and one guided walk among the stones. The dead do not redeem coupons. The dead are, however, present for the savings, and the Bureau counts this as participation.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. In Mourndier, bring a witness as well as two forms: grief makes clerks generous, and generosity must be countersigned.

10. A Repetition Day. By order of the unicorns, today is Hendiber the 3rd again: the Thanking of the Stairs, and a Sunsday besides. Citizens will thank the stairs they use, attend the service they attended, and file what they filed. The Bureau's whole guidance is the official blessing: good luck.

12. The Nawn Coalition patrols Mourndier in silence, reading the rolls over shoulders as they pass. Walk slower than usual. A nawn who stops beside you is checking a spelling, and the Bureau asks you to hold still for it the way you would for a tailor.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th. In Mourndier the queue is long and mostly quiet. The Raven files what it hears under M, for mortality, regardless of content. Citizens sleep better anyway.

15. The Bazaar of Second Prices. Everything at the bazaar has been priced once, found wanting, and priced again — lower, usually, and more honestly. Haggle twice: once for the object, once for its history. The second haggle is the bazaar.

16. Debts carried out of Gloomber may be re-filed today at the kinder rate. The Bureau does not call this mercy. The Bureau calls it the sixteenth.

17. Don't Sleep Day. Just don't. The Bureau offers no substitute activity and no explanation, and the one clerk who drafted one was reassigned to the rolls. Citizens spend the day awake together, in shifts of attention, being tired at one another with great courtesy. By sundown nobody remembers deciding anything, which the Bureau files as the point.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting, at which they read the rolls and agree on nothing about them, in writing, beautifully. Their annotated edition of the rolls is the month's favorite literature and its least reliable.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. In Mourndier the escort carries a lantern and a list of the rolls, out of courtesy, in case anyone down there is on it. The Howling Rites follow at dusk for those who came back thoughtful.

21. The weekly tournament is played in Mourndier rules this week: a lost game is mourned for one full minute, by both players, standing. Then tea. Then the next game.

22. Other Skin Day. You will be issued a skin at the district office, sized by estimate, and in Mourndier citizens are asked to choose the skin of someone on the rolls if one remains unclaimed. You will wear their errands for a day. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention.

24. The Pseudo-Religious Service is held with candles this week, one per name read on the 4th that anyone present can remember. The candles are not the doctrine. The remembering is not the doctrine either. The doctrine is filed separately and the service goes on without it, warmly.

26. The Nawn Coalition patrols again, slower now, near the month's end. Stand still when they pass. A citizen who stands still enough may be filed, briefly, as architecture, which in Mourndier is a compliment the dead also receive.

28. The weekly tournament closes the month, and the In-Transit House auction follows in the same hall: unclaimed effects, forwarded luggage, and one sealed parcel from the Deep City visit that nobody will bid on until somebody does. Proceeds are co-signed. Everything in Mourndier is co-signed. That is the month working as intended.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The old moon is a closing file: sign nothing alone today. The suns countersign.

2. Two names on every door today. Yours opens one of them; knock on both.

3. The suns rise in solemn agreement. A hymn signs itself in your book. Let it.

4. New moon. The rolls are read and the sky is dark enough to hear them by.

5. The moon returns a sliver at a time, like a name remembered. Check your spelling.

6. Waxing light, memorial noise. Howl for someone whose name you almost know.

7. A game is decided by a signature today. Yours is steadier than you think.

8. The graveyard gate is generous before noon. Bring the coupon; leave a name.

9. The suns are kind to witnesses. Stand beside someone and be believed.

10. Today happens as it happened. Thank the stairs twice; the second thanks is yours.

11. Quarter moon: half the rolls, half the sky. Finish the half you can read.

12. Watched, slowly. The moon's white eye follows the patrol and approves of stillness.

13. Confess upward. The moon is nearly full and keeps the district's secrets in duplicate.

14. A contest in black favors the unhurried. Lose standing; it is recorded as grace.

15. Everything today has been priced before. The second price is the honest one. Pay it.

16. The moon lends you a smaller shadow. Owe less by evening than you did at dawn.

17. No sleep in the sky either: the moon keeps watch with you, all day, blinking never.

18. Full moon. Every name is legible, including yours. The pamphleteers annotate kindly.

19. What you borrowed grieves less in your keeping today. Return it gently anyway.

20. Below the city the moon cannot follow. One hour unread. Come back spelled correctly.

21. The moon wanes over a moment of standing silence. Observe it. Then play on.

22. A borrowed shape fits you like a mourner at the right funeral. Return it dry.

23. Small refunds move through the dark toward you. Be at the gate to receive one.

24. Candle weather: the suns set early in the heart. Remember one name out loud.

25. Quarter moon. The rolls are re-filed and so are you. Your entry reads better.

26. The patrol passes your house twice in the moon's thin light. Stillness is seen.

27. A second opinion arrives from an unexpected window. It agrees with the kind one.

28. The month's last moon sets a place for the gloom. Leave your name in good order.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. ulnos — a contract; a lease — Co-sign nothing today without saying it first. It slows the pen, kindly.

2. nosven — a counter window — Name the one where your witness stands. Witnesses like to be located.

3. hallen — a friend — For the citizen who would be sorry alongside you. There is no finer title.

4. nosnar — a filed name — Yours, as read today. Pronounce it the way the clerk does. Practice helps.

5. mora — memory; remember — The month's working verb. Use it before you correct a spelling.

6. parmor — a whisper — The correct volume for the Rites' quieter verses. The howling is separate.

7. vor — pay, price — Ask it before the first game. Winners in Mourndier ask early.

8. ilven — window — The cemetery office has one, and today it is open to coupons. Name it politely.

9. vavas — a queue — The Aria line is a liturgy this month. Say it with reverence and a witness.

10. shàramor — yesterday — Today, precisely. Use it for everything; the Bureau will understand.

11. moril — the moon — Half of it is filed today. Greet the filed half.

12. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for the patrol. They prefer it to waving.

13. morfe — a raven — Address the Elder by function. It is filing you either way; be courteous.

14. os — teeth, bone (currency) — Stakes are settled in black this week. Name the currency before you play.

15. voreth — the price that changed you — For the bazaar's second haggle. Every citizen has one. Bid accordingly.

16. ul — debt, obligation — Say it smaller today. The word is lighter at the kinder rate.

17. Sil. — quiet — The whole vocabulary of the day, at full volume, hourly. Do not sleep on it.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will read you one from the rolls. Accept no first offers.

19. moraeth — nostalgia — For grief you borrowed and improved in the keeping. Return it named.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, a keeper, and a list. The list is courteous today.

21. selen — sing; file; record — What the minute of standing silence is, technically. File it as song.

22. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Again: for the skin's former tenant, and for you in it.

23. ven — door, gate, threshold — The cemetery's, which today returns small change. Step through slowly.

24. esh — fire — For the candles, named one by one. The service prefers them named.

25. nos — paper; record — The rolls are re-filed under it. So, today, is everyone.

26. sev — place; ground — Indicate exactly where you stood still. Precisely. It will be checked.

27. verthil — a frayed truth — For the second opinion you did not ask for. There is no word for lie; use this gently.

28. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — To the month, the rolls, and the auctioneer. Sing both halves.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

CO-SIGNING DAY (the 1st).

The season's filings open with two signatures. No citizen files alone in Mourndier: find a co-signer, stand at the window together, and be jointly responsible for whatever the form becomes. The Bureau holds that a signature witnessed is a signature halved, and a sorrow co-signed is the closest thing the city has to a discount. THE READING OF THE MORTALITY ROLLS (the 4th). On the new moon, the rolls of the season's dead are read aloud at the district office, alphabetically, at a respectful pace, and the Council grieves and invoices in the same sitting — the grief first, the invoice second, the order is regulated and has never once been reversed. Citizens whose names appear in error are invited to attend and object in person, which the Bureau calls the rolls' finest feature. REPETITION DAY (the 10th). A few days a year, the unicorns choose a day for you to repeat, at random, and today Mourndier repeats Hendiber the 3rd: the Thanking of the Stairs, falling on a Sunsday besides, so the service is also held twice-heartedly and the stairs are thanked in both directions. What you file today is filed twice. The Committee's entire guidance is the official blessing, printed here in full: good luck. THE BAZAAR OF SECOND PRICES (the 15th). Once a year the In-Transit House empties its shelves into the square: every object priced once, found wanting, and priced again. Nothing at the bazaar is new and nothing is ashamed. The second price is understood to be the honest one, and haggling twice — once for the thing, once for its history — is not merely permitted but graded. DON'T SLEEP DAY (the 17th). Just don't. The Bureau publishes no program, permits no substitute observance, and has never explained the day in any filing the Committee can find. Citizens keep one another awake with conversation, errands, and soup. What the day is for is filed, if it is filed anywhere, under a heading the clerks are not permitted to read aloud. By sundown the whole city is tired in company, which some citizens say is the most Mourndier feeling there is. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 22nd). The district office issues skins, sized by estimate, and in Mourndier the unclaimed skins of the recently filed dead are offered first, as a courtesy, so that their errands may be finished by somebody. Wear one set of unfinished business until sundown. Return the skin dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Mourndier is the month of the rolls, when the year's paperwork turns to face the citizens it lost. The Office's account is plain: a city that files everyone must also file everyone's ending, and an ending, like a beginning, deserves a season, a reading, and a second signature. The street's account is shorter. The street says Mourndier is the month the city reads its own mail. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for its duty — mourning, performed in order, alphabetically, with receipts. The disputed account, filed by the cemetery groundskeepers and marked Disputed in the margin: the month is named for the sound the city makes reading the rolls aloud through the district windows, which carries, and which is not quite grief and not quite bookkeeping and is entirely both. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The groundskeepers further file — Disputed, again — that the Bazaar of Second Prices began as an estate sale that never ended, the second prices proving more truthful than the first and the square refusing, ever since, to give the stalls back. The Bureau's comment on this filing is on record. It reads: no comment, seconded.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — TEARS. Effective the 1st of Mourndier, the monthly allowance of tears shed is raised by three for the season of the rolls. Unspent tears do not carry into Gloomber. The ravens are counting, and in Mourndier the wooden parrots take the evening shift, out of respect. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — MOURNDIER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: tears shed (see above), nails clipped (mourners are reminded: one hand per sitting, as filed), and feelings of being annoyed at slow readings. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose pace, this month, is respectful. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. The Council is in mourning this month and its patience is filed accordingly. This notice is printed at the Council's request and the Committee's expense. MANDATE REPORT — LEFT STEPS. The daily allowance of left steps is unchanged this month. Citizens attending the reading of the rolls are reminded that standing still at a window is not a step, left or otherwise, and will not be counted, however long the name before theirs may be.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

PALE & DAUGHTER, MOURNING STATIONERS — One condolence form free with every co-signed filing, Mourndier only. Grief printed in two colors: black, and black again. Daughters counted as witnesses at no charge. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE SECOND WINDOW EXCHANGE — Bring one first price, receive its second. Goods, regrets, and unsent letters appraised while you wait. Appraisal is final; honesty is complimentary. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) HUSH AND LEDGER, CEMETERY GATE PROVISIONS — Wreath adjustments at half fare on presentation of this coupon, the 8th honored all month. Soup for the awake on the 17th, priced by pity. The gate is open. The gate is always open. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · MOURNDIER

Mourndier

Late autumn (folk) · as the Index files it: The mortality rolls are read.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The heartbreak drive is all month. Co-Signing Day falls on the 1st. The Bureau considers this efficient.

Rolls read on the 4th. Grief assessed at the standard rate. Budget accordingly.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Mourndier 1	Co-Signing Day
Mourndier 4	The mortality rolls are read · the Council grieves and invoices
Mourndier 15	Bazaar of Second Prices

The heartbreak drive · the Broken Heart Brigade · all month

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

MOONSDAY, MOURNDIER 4

Skolar. Filing Day coincides with the reading of the rolls. He attends both. He is read at one of them.

THE WHITE MOON

● Mourndier 4 new · ◑ Mourndier 11 first quarter · ○ Mourndier 18 full · ◐ Mourndier 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- Black cardigan, mended
- Teeth for the grief invoice (budget at the standard rate; the rate has risen)
- A heartbreak for the drive (vintage, pre-56th; not mine)
- A second price, for the Bazaar
- Exact change, for the 20th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Mourndier runs from Friday 26 November 2027 to Thursday 23 December 2027, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Mourndier 1 DAY 141 OF 392

CO-SIGNING DAY RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Co-Signing Day. Seventeen joint applications at Window 4 by noon. Six returned for corrections. The Brigade was waiting outside for the six.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Mourndier 2 DAY 142 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Mourndier 3 DAY 143 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Mourndier 4 DAY 144 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

THE MORTALITY ROLLS ARE READ · THE COUNCIL GRIEVES AND INVOICES

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Skolar. Filing Day coincides with the reading of the rolls. He attends both. He is read at one of them.

Mortality rolls. Black cardigan. The invoice arrives by evening.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Mourndier 5 DAY 145 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Mourndier 6 DAY 146 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Mourndier 7 DAY 147 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Co-Signing Day

FEASTDAY, MOURNDIER 1

In Montavera, love is a joint filing. On Co-Signing Day couples co-sign each other's forms, and proposals are made by presenting a joint application at Window 4. A refusal is stamped *Returned for Corrections*, which the city agrees is the kindest way to be turned down. The heartbreak drive begins the same day. The Bureau considers this efficient.

- The Joint Application. Proposals are written on a single form in two hands. The space for the second signature is left blank, and the waiting is the proposal.
- Countersigning. Long-married couples countersign each other's year: every form either filed alone is now signed by both.
- Returned for Corrections. A refused application may be corrected and resubmitted the following Co-Signing Day. Several of the city's longest marriages began with three corrections.
- The Broken Heart Brigade waits outside Window 4 all day with collection tins. They are not unkind about it. They are simply ready.

At the table: two NPCs have filed a joint application at Window 4, and one of the signatures is a forgery.

READ THIS WEEK

The Mortality Rolls, as Read

MOONSDAY, MOURNDIER 4 · YEAR 5 OF THE 56TH AGE

Names are read once. Grief is assessed at the standard rate. The Council will invoice.

Lord Varrica, last head of the Earth Institution

Trozoguru of the 7th Thunder Shrine

Sarella, who was winning

Ondrew, who lost his last game

~~Skolar, Soul Diffuser~~ *read, and struck through, in accordance with precedent*

…and those whose files remain open. They will be read when they are ready.

Lord Varrica's notes continue to surface. The roll does not wait for the notes.
Trozoguru's chicken attended. It was too choked up to read. A replacement reader was found. The chicken has filed an objection to the replacement. Sarella is still winning. The roll has been advised. Skolar: struck through. Again. Precedent is precedent.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Mourndier 8 DAY 148 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Ondine Sorrell's petition: due for review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Mourndier 9 DAY 149 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Ondine Sorrell's petition: reviewed. Declined. Diary the next review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Mourndier 10 DAY 150 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Mourndier 11 DAY 151 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Mourndier 12 DAY 152 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Mourndier 13 DAY 153 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Mourndier 14 DAY 154 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Mourndier 15 DAY 155 OF 392

BAZAAR OF SECOND PRICES

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Bazaar of Second Prices. Nothing sells at its first price. Arrive with a second price in mind. Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Mourndier 16 DAY 156 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Mourndier 17 DAY 157 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Mourndier 18 DAY 158 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers, full moon. They agreed on one thing. It has been filed as an anomaly.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Mourndier 19 DAY 159 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Mourndier 20 DAY 160 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Coin. The Brigade asked whether a broken heart is accepted on a coin day. I declined to answer. They took this as yes.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Mourndier 21 DAY 161 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Bazaar of Second Prices
FEASTDAY, MOURNDIER 15

Nothing sells at its first price.

- Haggling upward. The first price is always refused by the buyer as too low. Bargaining runs upward until the seller is embarrassed, then stops.
- The Price Card. Each stall shows the first price struck through and leaves the second blank. Filling it in is the buyer's privilege.
- Second-hand heartbreak. The Brigade keeps a stall, selling at second price what was donated at first.

At the table: a seller has priced an item so that no second price could ever be enough.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT
20____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Mourndier 22 DAY 162 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Good: donated a heartbreak to the drive (pre-56th; vintage). Evil: it was not mine.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Mourndier 23 DAY 163 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Mourndier 24 DAY 164 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Mourndier 25 DAY 165 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Imelda Prosk, Standing Orders. She will not be told it was an appointment.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Mourndier 26 DAY 166 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Mourndier 27 DAY 167 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Mourndier 28 DAY 168 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lot 14.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Fewer ED-1.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE FIFTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 169–196 OF THE YEAR

GLOOMBER

Early winter · The Guild of Gloom's month

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

GLOO 6

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Rent. Signups open. The gloom is open too.	2 Favorable day for screaming	3 THE AGENCIES' ANNUAL DEBATE The Agencies debate. Both sides filed.	4 ○ New moon. Even the dark is darker.	5 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. In the gloom.	6 Community Howling Rites. For morale.	7 Factions Tournament. Played by lantern.
8 The gloom is appraised today. Hold still.	9 FILING DAY OF RECORD Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Dimly attended.	11 ◐ Other Skin Day. Quarter moon.	12 FILING DAY OF RECORD A good day to lower your expectations.	13 MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DISPUTED Moonsday the 13th. Filed DISPUTED.	14 Factions Tournament. Losers dim first.
15 Leave a lamp on for the filing clerks.	16 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Unseen, mostly.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Candles provided.	18 ● THE GLOOM-OFF Full moon. The Gloom-Off. Do not smile.	19 Recover from yesterday at your leisure.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. One hour only.	21 Tournament. Lock-in tonight. Count heads.
22 THE HEADMASTER'S DAY OFF The Headmaster's Day Off. File gently.	23 SECOND HELPINGS DAY Second Helpings Day. Bring your form.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. Extra helping.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The gloom thins, slightly.	26 A favorable day for a long face.	27 The collectors offer gloom rates today.	28 ▲ QUARTER DAY QUARTER DAY. Tournament. The auction after.

Mourndier reads out the roll, and the bill;
Gloomber stays gloomy, and gloomier still.

The Back of Gloomber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due, the Deep City signup window opens, and Gloomber opens with them: the deep gloom, the city's annual low season of the heart. Citizens are advised to begin the month the way the Bureau does — seated, lamp lit, expectations filed at the lower rate.

2. Screaming is favorable today and, in Gloomber, barely requires the approved receptacle; the gloom absorbs what the fog elsewhere returns to the wrong address. Citizens scream once, well, and then get on with the month. The Bureau considers this the gloom's one civic efficiency.

3. The Agencies hold their annual debate on a Sunsday, in the service hall, the service having been respectfully rescheduled to the corridor. The debate is refereed. Both sides lose. The referees file the result under G, for gloom, and the corridor service is, by all accounts, the year's best attended, because everyone is already there and nobody is allowed to leave cheerful.

4. When the white moon is new in Gloomber, the dark is doubled: the month's own gloom over the moon's absence. The Bureau lights the district lamps at noon. Citizens walk as if underwater, politely, and collisions are forgiven in advance.

5. The Nawn Coalition patrols the gloom on foot, in silence, which in Gloomber means they are visible chiefly as a slight improvement in the darkness. Do not wave. They are working. If the dark beside you straightens up, that was a patrol.

6. The Howling Rites are held this month for morale, outdoors, at the usual pitch, with lanterns. The choirmaster describes the turnout as brave. The neighbors describe it as audible. Both filings stand.

8. Once a year the city's gloom is appraised: its depth, its texture, its resale value as atmosphere. Citizens are asked to hold still and be gloomy in a representative fashion. The appraisal sets the lamp tax, the soup price, and the tone of the month's mandate reports.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms. In Gloomber the queue moves at the speed of the season and nobody minds, which the Bureau files as the gloom paying its own dividend.

10. The Pseudo-Religious Service is held indoors, dimly, attendance taken by candlelight and therefore approximately. The doctrine is read at half volume. Citizens report it is the service they feel most, which the service files without surprise.

11. Other Skin Day falls on the quarter moon, and you will be issued a skin at the district office, sized by estimate — in Gloomber, skins run gloomier than their owners, and citizens are advised to allow for this at the mirror. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention.

13. Moonsday the 13th. The Elder Raven hears confessions today, and the calendar's oldest argument keeps its seat beside it: the filing insists the 13th of Gloomber is a Moonsday, the moon's own testimony disagrees, and the matter is filed DISPUTED and has never been settled. Citizens observe the day under whichever weekday they can defend. The Raven accepts confessions under both.

14. The weekly tournament is played by lantern throughout the month; this week, the losers dim first, as a courtesy, so the winners may see their victory clearly. The rule is old. Nobody remembers voting for it. Nobody would repeal it.

16. The Nawn Coalition patrols again, unseen, mostly — a citizen may spend the whole patrol as a coat rack in the dark and be thanked for it in writing, eventually. The Bureau confirms these thank-yous are sincere. The Bureau confirms everything in Gloomber eventually. It is that kind of month.

18. The moon is full — the one bright night of the deep gloom — and the Gloom-Off is held in its light: a contest of sustained gloom, refereed, silent, won by the citizen who holds the longest face against the full moon's best efforts. The reigning champion has not smiled since the incident. The pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth attend in lieu of their monthly meeting and take notes in the dark, from memory, wrongly, beautifully.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. Gloomber citizens are considered seasoned for the trip and are issued no lantern; the Deep City, the escort notes, is darker, and it is a point of local pride that nobody from this month has ever asked for the hour to be shortened. The Howling Rites follow at dusk, at half pitch, out of respect for the hour's survivors.

21. The Junior High Lock-in & Retreat is held tonight, and the weekly tournament runs concurrently in the same building, by the district's ancient double-booking, which no office will admit to signing. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. The tournament guarantees a winner. Citizens are asked to count heads at both doors and to keep the counts in separate columns.

22. The Headmaster's Day Off. The Bureau operates at half voice. Filings are accepted gently, stamps descend slowly, and any citizen may be excused one (1) sigh at any window, no form required. Where the Headmaster goes on this day is not filed. The clerks' account — that the day is spent being filed, somewhere, as a citizen — is printed here as an account, and the Committee rules on it no more than the clerks do.

23. Second Helpings Day. Every citizen is entitled to a second helping of the month: one more serving of soup, of candlelight, of whatever the season has been serving, on presentation of the form. Seconds of the gloom itself are available at Window 2 and are, the Bureau notes with something like pride, the least requested item on any menu in the city.

25. The quarter moon returns and the gloom begins, officially, to thin — though in Gloomber "thin" is a technical term meaning a citizen may now distinguish the patrol from the weather at ten paces. Lamps are still lit at noon. Morale is filed as improving, in pencil.

27. The collectors make their rounds at gloom rates: settlements gentler, smiles rarer, arithmetic kinder. Settle what you owe while the season is soft. The collectors' courtesy in Gloomber is famous and is not, the Bureau wishes it noted, a trap.

28. Quarter Day. The month closes its quarter at the windows: filings due, accounts squared, the quarter's gloom weighed against the quarter's candles. The weekly tournament plays its final in the square and the In-Transit House auction follows in the same hall, where the unclaimed lots this quarter include three lanterns, one umbrella of unusual size, and a coat that several citizens insist is standing in it.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The old moon is a lamp turned down: begin low, begin lit. The suns keep the gloom's hours.

2. Your voice carries today and lands nowhere it can harm. Spend it once, well.

3. The suns rise in disagreement and sit down in it. A debate decides nothing near you.

4. New moon in the deep gloom. Begin nothing brightly. The dark is double-staffed.

5. Something tall and silent improves the corner by your house. It is not yours. It passes.

6. The moon waxes a thumbnail's width. Howl for morale; the morale is filed.

7. Lantern light favors the patient player. A game goes your way, dimly, then holds.

8. Be still under appraisal. Your gloom today is representative, and rates depend on it.

9. The suns are modest before noon. Ask at Window 2; the queue is the reward.

10. A half-heard hymn finishes itself in the corridor of the heart. Stand where it passes.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-gloomy. Wear someone else gently; the fit improves you.

12. The moon suggests lowering one expectation before lunch. The relief is itemized.

13. The moon's weekday is disputed in the filings. Live today under the day you can defend.

14. Contest weather: dim first if you lose, shine quietly if you win. Both are recorded.

15. A lamp left burning finds its clerk. Small kindnesses are received without comment.

16. Unseen company walks your street tonight. The moon confirms it obliquely. Lock nothing extra.

17. The suns hold a low note under candlelight. Stand under it a moment. It helps, dimly.

18. Full moon. The sky does its brightest work over your longest face. Hold. Hold. Win.

19. The moon wanes over yesterday's contest. Recover at leisure; the gloom permits it.

20. Below the city, the moon cannot follow, and the dark there makes ours look upholstered.

21. Locked doors in the moon's waning light. Count who returns; say nothing of arithmetic.

22. The great chair is empty today and the moon keeps it warm. File gently, citizen.

23. A second helping of light is served after dark, on request, with the form. Take it.

24. The suns set in a generous order tonight. The extra helping reaches you.

25. Quarter moon. The gloom thins by one technical degree. Your shadow returns to you.

26. A long face is briefly fashionable in the moon's thin smile. Wear yours like a medal.

27. Bright arithmetic in a dark week: bargains soften. Read the collector's smile once.

28. The quarter closes under a courteous moon. Be weighed, be squared, be filed.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. mor — dark, shadow — Name the month's element politely. The gloom appreciates being addressed.

2. am — I, the one singing now — Begin a scream with it and the scream is yours, legally, even in Gloomber.

3. verthil — a frayed truth — The debate's only permitted verdict. There is no word for lie; both sides use this.

4. morilsil — a moonless night — Coined at Pim's table. Tonight, exactly. Use it at the lamps.

5. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — The patrol's preferred address. Offer nothing warmer in the dark.

6. parfe — a parrot — The wooden kind counts in the dusk. The feathered kind counts on you.

7. ilven — window — The lantern goes in it tonight. Name the window; the light files itself.

8. sev — place; ground — Indicate exactly where you stood for the appraisal. Precisely. Rates follow.

9. vavas — a queue — Say it without hurry at Window 2. Hurry is not a Gloomber virtue.

10. dorne — a guest — For whoever the corridor service sends to your table. Feed them dimly.

11. kaelam — a human — What you are again at sundown. Say it to the mirror without flinching.

12. nes — no — The month's most restful word. Spend it on one expectation today.

13. lin sòlla sar — thirteen — Say the date as a number only. The weekday is disputed; the Raven files both.

14. halver — a thief — For tonight's suspicion at the card table. File the opponent under it or under friend; choose once.

15. esh — fire — For the lamp you leave burning. Name it kindly; clerks navigate by it.

16. parmor — a whisper — The patrol's whole language, and the confession queue's. Practice.

17. hallen — a friend — Again, in candlelight: confession and supper both go better accompanied.

18. morven — dusk; the Back Door — The Gloom-Off begins at it and the champion arrived by it, years ago.

19. vastel — elapsed time — For yesterday, which took exactly as long as it took. File it under this.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, a keeper, and a list. The keeper nods at Gloomber names.

21. neselen — a child — Count them out loud tonight, coming and going. The Retreat appreciates it.

22. nosdor — an office; the Bureau — Address the empty chair's department with respect. It is resting, not gone.

23. ala — water — The soup's first principle and the season's. Say it when the second helping lands.

24. shara — light — Scarce, therefore formal. Use it for the extra candle and mean it.

25. moril — the moon — A quarter of it returns. Greet the returning quarter by name.

26. thurselen — an elder — For the longest faces of your acquaintance. Courtesy is a kind of lamp.

27. ulvor — settlement — The collectors' favorite word this week, at gloom rates. Say it and settle.

28. fel sòlla — twenty — For the quarter's closing count. Twenty of anything, filed together, is a crowd with papers.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE AGENCIES' ANNUAL DEBATE (the 3rd).

Once a year the Agencies debate the season's great question, in the service hall, with referees, in full. Both sides lose; this is the result the hall is built for, and the referees' filing of it — under G — is considered the year's most honest document. The question debated is not announced in advance and is, some years, never announced at all, which the Agencies describe as the strongest form of the motion. MOONSDAY THE 13TH (the 13th). DISPUTED. The filing holds that the 13th of Gloomber is a Moonsday. The moon, consulted, holds otherwise, and the calendar prints the day under protest from both. It has never been settled. Citizens observe it under the weekday they can defend, the Elder Raven hears confessions under both, and the Bureau's position — that a day may be disputed without being diminished — is one of the city's quieter prides. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 11th). The district office issues skins, sized by estimate, and the quarter moon inspects them. In Gloomber, wear yours with allowance: the skin of a gloomier citizen is heavier at the shoulders. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. THE GLOOM-OFF (the 18th). On the full moon — the deep gloom's one bright night — the city holds its contest of sustained gloom: silence, stillness, the longest face wins. The reigning champion has not smiled since the incident, and the incident is not part of this filing. Challengers are reminded that the moon is also competing, has a considerable head start, and has never once been beaten by anyone but, on one disputed evening, the champion. THE JUNIOR HIGH LOCK-IN & RETREAT (the 21st). Held tonight, concurrently with the weekly tournament, in the same building, by double-booking no office will sign for. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. The Bureau counts heads at both doors, in separate columns, and the tournament's trophy ceremony is asked, annually, to keep its voice down. It never has. The children prefer it that way, in writing. THE HEADMASTER'S DAY OFF (the 22nd). The Bureau operates at half voice. One sigh per citizen is excused at any window, without a form — the year's only unfiled transaction, and the clerks keep it that way with a discipline the Committee can only describe as love. SECOND HELPINGS DAY (the 23rd). A second helping of the month, on presentation of the form: soup, candlelight, company, rest. The Bureau serves what the season has been serving and asks nothing about the firsts. Seconds of the gloom itself remain available at Window 2, unrequested, aging beautifully. QUARTER DAY (the 28th). The quarter closes: filings due, accounts squared, gloom weighed against candles at the district office scales. Decisions stamped today are Quarter decisions and stand until appealed in Oldber, which the Bureau notes is a long time to stand, and stamps them kindly for it.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Gloomber is the deep gloom: the month the city practices being itself at half light. The Office's account is that the gloom is scheduled the way the rains are scheduled elsewhere — a season the city keeps because the city runs

better slightly dimmed, the way a theater runs better with the house lights low. The street's account is shorter. The street says Gloomber is the month the city rests its face. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for its weather, which is interior — a gloom kept in the chest, by regulation, at a depth the appraisal certifies yearly. The disputed account, filed by the lamp-lighters' guild and marked Disputed in the margin: the month is named for the champion of the first Gloom-Off, whose surname is lost and whose face is, arguably, still going. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The lamp-lighters further file — Disputed, again — that the Agencies chose Gloomber for their debate because a question argued in the gloom cannot be lost in the light either, and both sides preferred the record to show a draw with the dark. The Bureau's comment on this filing is on record. It reads: the Bureau was present. The Bureau saw nothing. The Bureau saw it at half light, beautifully.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Gloomber, the street along the lamp-lighters' depot is closed to crossing after noon, when the lamps are lit and the light is considered traffic. Citizens may look at it, and may throw paper airplanes into it, wishing they could fly across on one of them. Retrieved airplanes are read by lamplight and filed as petitions, in order, answerable by spring. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — GLOOMBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: yawns in public (raised by two; the season is the season), scratches when itching, and feelings of being annoyed at the dark, which are tracked separately and forgiven in bulk on the 25th. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose methods, in Gloomber, involve a great deal of listening. MANDATE REPORT — LAMPS. Effective the 1st of Gloomber, household lamps are lit at noon and the lamp tax is assessed on the appraisal of the 8th. Citizens whose gloom appraises below the district mean may apply for supplementary gloom at Window 2. Approval is immediate. The gloom is the one thing the Bureau has never once run out of.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

DUSK & DAUGHTER, PURVEYORS OF FINE GLOOM — One room dimmed free with every consultation, Gloomber only. Dimming measured to the district standard. Daughter does the corners. Corners cost extra everywhere else in the city; here they are the point. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE UNLIT LAMP, CHANDLERY & CANDLES — Buy two candles, the third is lit for you at the counter and carried home under escort of a clerk. Escort valid until the first corner. After that the candle is yours and so is the dark. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MOTH & CANDLE, SECOND HELPINGS CATERERS — Second helping free on the 23rd with this coupon and the form. First helpings at the usual price, which is the joke the Committee permits us once a year and which we have now used. Soup refills until the pot files for rest. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · GLOOMBER

Gloomber

Early winter (folk) · as the Index files it: The Guild of Gloom's month.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Guild's month. The champion has not smiled since the 54th Age. The Index has been asked to keep count. The Index keeps count.

A declared 13th this month. Bring a hat that is not mine. Have one ready.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Gloomber 3	The Agencies' annual debate · refereed · both sides lose
Gloomber 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed
Gloomber 18	The Gloom-Off
Gloomber 22	The Headmaster's Day Off
Gloomber 23	Second Helpings Day
Gloomber 28	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

SHROUDSDAY, GLOOMBER 9

Tam. File opened on a Shroudsday. Nobody noticed. He would like that kept.

TWINSDAY, GLOOMBER 12

Los. File opened on the Duplicate's day, in bars. The Index has transcribed them as prose. He has filed a grievance about the transcription.

THE WHITE MOON

● Gloomber 4 new · ◑ Gloomber 11 first quarter · ○ Gloomber 18 full · ◐ Gloomber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- A stapler (not that one)
- Gift wrap that does not look like a summons
- A spare smile, for the gloom-off
- The Bursar's hat (borrowed; return in Chandber)
- Exact change, for the 6th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Gloomber runs from Friday 24 December 2027 to Thursday 20 January 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Gloomber 1 DAY 169 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Gloomber 2 DAY 170 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Gloomber 3 DAY 171 OF 392

THE AGENCIES' ANNUAL DEBATE · REFEREED · BOTH SIDES LOSE

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

The Agencies' annual debate. Refereed. Both sides lose. Attend by score sheet.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Gloomber 4 DAY 172 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Gloomber 5 DAY 173 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Gloomber 6 DAY 174 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Coin, on a Whispersday. A rumor about a rumor. The Brigade has stopped asking me.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Gloomber 7 DAY 175 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

6

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Gloomber 8 DAY 176 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Gloomber 9 DAY 177 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Tam. File opened on a Shroudsday. Nobody noticed. He would like that kept.
Do not wish Tam a good Filing Day. He would like it kept unnoticed.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Gloomber 10 DAY 178 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Gloomber 11 DAY 179 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER 2027. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Gloomber 12 DAY 180 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Los. File opened on the Duplicate's day, in bars. The Index has transcribed them as prose. He has filed a grievance about the transcription.
Los's Filing Day. Gift: a stapler. Not that one.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Gloomber 13 DAY 181 OF 392

MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DECLARED BY EMERGENCY DECREE · FILED DISPUTED · THE MOON HOLDS THE OTHER COPY *Wear a hat that isn't yours; eat an odd number of identical meals; speak in declarative questions?*

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Declared Moonsday. It is a Whispersday. The moon is smug. The 13th has not been informed. I wore the Bursar's hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Gloomber 14 DAY 182 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Gloomber 15 DAY 183 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Gloomber 16 DAY 184 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Gloomber 17 DAY 185 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Gloomber 18 DAY 186 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE GLOOM-OFF THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

The gloom-off. Smile at the champion. He will not return it. Smile harder. It is not a competition. It is.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Gloomber 19 DAY 187 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

He did not smile. The record stands. I have filed my own smile as a formal attempt.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Gloomber 20 DAY 188 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Internal Audit, second visit. Tam's coat has gained weight. So has the audit.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Gloomber 21 DAY 189 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Gloom-Off

MOONSDAY, GLOOMBER 18

Guild of Gloom. The champion has not smiled since the 54th Age. Smile at him.

- The Challengers' Line. Citizens queue to try to make the champion smile, by any lawful means, for one minute each. The line is long. It is never long enough.
- The Count. The Index keeps the count of years since the champion last smiled, and posts it at dusk.
- The Guild's Victory Supper. Eaten in silence, by candlelight, and enjoyed thoroughly. The Guild denies the enjoyment.

At the table: someone has made the champion smile, privately, and is being blackmailed about it.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Gloomber 22 DAY 190 OF 392

THE HEADMASTER'S DAY OFF

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

My day off. The offices will run without me. Nothing is to be decided in my absence that I would not have decided in my presence.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Gloomber 23 DAY 191 OF 392

SECOND HELPINGS DAY

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Returned. Every office ran slightly better yesterday. I have filed this as a coincidence and approved everything done in my absence without reading it. Second helpings at the Citadel. Declined, in writing.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Gloomber 24 DAY 192 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Gloomber 25 DAY 193 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 14 JANUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Gloomber 26 DAY 194 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Gloomber 27 DAY 195 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Gloomber 28 DAY 196 OF 392

▲ QUARTER DAY · HISTORY REVISED · MISPRINTS BURNED · THE ELDER'S PETITION DECIDED IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Quarter Day. History revised. Read the old one tonight.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Headmaster's Day Off

FEASTDAY, GLOOMBER 22

Once a year the city's offices run for one day without the Headmaster's oversight. Every year they run slightly better. The Index has studied this closely and found it to be coincidence. Everything done on the Headmaster's Day Off is approved on his return, without being read, which is customary and has never once gone wrong.

- The Empty Chair, Turned to the Wall. In every office, the Headmaster's chair is turned to face the wall. Clerks speak more freely. They also get more done.
- The Brave Filing. Citizens file the one form they have been afraid to file all year. A remarkable number are approved.
- Stronger tea. By custom, the tea in every office is made slightly stronger on the Headmaster's Day Off. Nobody has been told to do this. Everybody does.
- The Return. At midnight the chairs are turned back, and the city returns to its usual efficiency.

At the table: the one day a year the party can do something in a government office without its being noticed. It will be approved tomorrow, unread.

Second Helpings Day

SHROUDSDAY, GLOOMBER 23

Every kitchen in Montavera, public or private, must offer every citizen a second helping. Declining must be done in writing. The Citadel kitchens provide the form. In the history of the observance no citizen has successfully declined, because the second helping is served before the form can be completed.

- The Pre-Emptive Plate. By custom the second helping is set down while the first is still being eaten. Waiting until the first is finished is considered cold.
- The Declining Form , Form SH-2, is printed on paper that absorbs gravy.
- The Household Champion. The family's eldest cook watches the table all day. A plate seen empty for more than a breath is refilled as a matter of honor.
- Shroudsday. It is the day things go unnoticed, which is why nobody counts the helpings.

At the table: for the first time in the record, a guest at the Citadel kitchens has successfully declined a second helping in writing. The Index wants to know how, and so does every cook in the city.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE SIXTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 197–224 OF THE YEAR

TEADBER

Winter · Tea season below

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 THE STEEP Rent. The Steep opens. Signups open.	2 One invitation. One teapot. No plus-ones.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Tea after.	4 ○ New moon. The first leaves are read.	5 The kettle files its intentions early.	6 Community Howling Rites. Tea is served.	7 FILING DAY OF RECORD Factions Tournament. Played at the table.
8 A good day to warm the pot first.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Second cup.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half a cup, precisely.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Between teas.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 FATHER'S DAY Father's Day. Tournament after supper.
15 The leaves are read again. They decline.	16 Favorable day for a longer steep.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Sugar is filed.	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers take tea.	19 Other Skin Day. Return it unstained.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. One hour only.	21 Factions Tournament. The pot is the prize.
22 Good day to be poured for, not poured.	23 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. No tea offered.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. The good cups.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The pot is nearly filed.	26 Return borrowed cups by sundown.	27 The last leaves are read. No comment.	28 AS-FILED NIGHT AS-FILED NIGHT. Nothing improves tonight.

TEAD 24

Teadber pours tea for the ones from below;
Quillder recopies, and loses a row.

The Back of Teadber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. The Steep opens the tea season, and rent is due, and the Deep City signup window opens, all on the same morning, because Teadber is a sociable month and likes its queues with company. The first pot of the season is poured at the district office at nine. Citizens who miss it are not behind. The season is long and the pot is refilled.

2. The Steep's rule is old: one invitation, one teapot, no plus-ones. The invitation admits the citizen; the teapot admits their mood. Guests who bring a second teapot are seated at the second table, which is widely considered the better one and is never, ever described that way by the hosts.

3. The Pseudo-Religious Service is followed by tea, poured by the ushers, strength at the service's discretion. The doctrine is read first. The tea is the doctrine's longest-standing commentary and the only one citizens are permitted to take home.

4. On the new moon the first leaves of the season are read at the district office: a small cup, a dark sky, a clerk with clean hands. What the leaves say on the 4th sets the season's opening price and is binding on no one, which the Bureau calls the correct relationship between a citizen and a forecast.

5. In Teadber the kettle files its intentions early: households register the day's first boiling by leaving the whistle unsilenced until the parrots have counted it. A silent kettle is not an offense. It is merely, for one month of the year, a rumor.

6. The Howling Rites are held outdoors, at the usual pitch, with tea served at the interval in the good cups. Citizens howl, drink, and howl again, and the choirmaster's filed opinion — that tea improves the second howl measurably — has never been contradicted by anyone who stayed for both.

7. The weekly tournament opens the season at the long table, teapots at either end, the pot itself an unofficial trophy that returns to the Bureau each week having seen things. Players are reminded that a spilled cup is a forfeited move and a stained form is a confession.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms. In Teadber the queue is served tea by the window clerks, in rotation, and a citizen's place may be held by their cup. A cup found unattended holds the place of somebody loved.

11. The quarter moon is observed with half a cup, precisely: the district offices measure, and citizens who pour generously are corrected with great tenderness and a smaller cup. The moon, the Bureau notes, is also at half, and managing beautifully.

12. The Nawn Coalition patrols between teas, on the hour, in silence, carrying nothing. Do not wave. A nawn at your table's end is checking the leaves, and it is considered poor form to ask what it sees. It sees the same leaves. It reads them slower.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th. In Teadber the Raven takes tea first, black, and citizens report that confession pours easier after. The Raven files what it hears and wipes the cup's rim with its own cloth, which it brought, and which it will not discuss.

14. Father's Day. The city honors fathers as filed: by blood, by countersignature, by having once stood at a stove or a window and been pointed at by a child and named correctly. Gifts are given at the midday meal, thanks are settled — Ulvor, always Ulvor — and the weekly tournament plays after supper, at the family table, with the father awarded the first move and the last word, both of which he is expected to spend kindly.

15. The leaves are read again at mid-season and decline to elaborate on the 4th. The Bureau accepts this. A forecast that repeats itself is a rumor; a forecast that goes quiet is a professional.

16. A longer steep is favorable today: leaves left standing past the usual count, cups poured dark, conversations allowed to finish their sentences. The Bureau recommends the day to citizens with something unfinished that is not a form.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting over tea, at which they agree on nothing and refill everything. Their minutes this month are kept on the pot's tally card and are the season's favorite literature: disputed, annotated, and stained in three places that the pamphleteers describe as emphasis.

19. Other Skin Day. You will be issued a skin at the district office, sized by estimate, and in Teadber one rule is added to the usual ones: return it unstained. Tea in another's skin is taken standing, at a counter, over a saucer, with respect for the previous tenant's laundry. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. Teadber citizens are served nothing down there and ask for nothing, having been raised by a month that teaches the difference between a visit and a residence. The Howling Rites follow at dusk, and the first cup back is poured for whoever looks coldest, by acclamation.

21. The weekly tournament is played for the pot: the season's traveling teapot, engraved with the names of tables it has outlasted. The winner holds it for one week and files a report on its behavior. The reports are collected, bound, and considered by the pamphleteers to be the finest prose in the city, which the pamphleteers would say.

23. The Nawn Coalition patrols again. Do not offer tea. The nawns do not drink, being otherwise employed by the act of looking, and an offered cup places a citizen in the delicate position of holding it forever, out of politeness, until the patrol has passed the district entirely.

24. The Pseudo-Religious Service is held with the good cups, brought down from the office shelf for the season's last stretch. Breakage at the service is forgiven in advance and recorded in pencil. The service holds that a good cup, like a good filing, is meant to be used at the edge of its strength.

26. Borrowed cups are returned by sundown today, washed, with the borrower's name filed inside the saucer. A cup returned late is a story. A cup returned early is a compliment. A cup not returned is, by Teadber law older than the Bureau, a relative.

27. The last leaves of the season are read and offer no comment, and the Bureau files the silence as the season's most accurate forecast. Prices are settled on it anyway. Citizens nod at their cups the way clerks nod at a stamp: something has been decided by someone qualified.

28. As-Filed Night. The season closes exactly as it stands: no improvement, no garnish, no second drafting of the month. The weekly tournament plays its final in the square, the In-Transit House holds its auction after — unclaimed cups, forwarded kettles, one parcel that ticks faintly and is sold, as always, to the Bureau — and at midnight the whole month is taken as filed, which in Teadber is the highest compliment the city pays anything: it was enough, as it was.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The old moon is a cold pot: warm what you begin today. The suns pour first.

2. One door opens for you and one pot is yours at the table. Sit down; both were counted.

3. The suns rise in good company. A hymn finishes; after it, something warm and kind.

4. New moon. The first leaves are read in the dark and they are reading you back.

5. The moon returns like a whistle before the steam. Announce one intention early.

6. Waxing light, good cups. Howl once, drink once, howl better. The moon keeps the tally.

7. A game at the long table favors the unhurried hand. Spill nothing; it is all recorded.

8. Warm the pot and the day follows. The suns approve of preparations today.

9. The queue is kind before noon. A cup holds your place and somebody's love with it.

10. A second cup of light is poured for you after the service. Stay for it. It was counted.

11. Quarter moon: half a cup, precisely. What you are given today is exactly enough.

12. Watched, between hours. The moon's white eye rests on the patrol and on your table.

13. Confess upward. The moon is nearly full and takes its tea black, like the Raven.

14. A father's sky: the suns stand where they can be pointed at. Be named correctly today.

15. The leaves in the moon's cup decline to elaborate. Take the quiet as good news.

16. Let things stand longer today. The moon steepens everything it touches, including you.

17. The suns hold a long, sweet note. Sugar is filed; so, briefly, are you, under kindness.

18. Full moon. The whole pot of the sky is poured at once. The pamphleteers take notes.

19. A borrowed shape takes tea standing today. Return it unstained; the moon checks.

20. Below the city the moon cannot follow. One hour unpoured. Come back thirsty for home.

21. The moon wanes over a traveling pot. Win or lose, your table is the story tonight.

22. Be poured for: the day serves citizens who sit still in good company. Accept seconds of rest.

23. The patrol passes your window in the thin light. Hold your cup; stillness is seen.

24. The good cups come down under a generous moon. Use yours at the edge of its strength.

25. Quarter moon. The pot is nearly filed and so is the season. Your entry reads warmly.

26. Small returns move toward you through the dusk: cups, names, kindnesses. Wash and file them.

27. The leaves say nothing and the moon agrees. A silent forecast is a professional one.

28. The month is taken as filed under its last moon. Enough, as it was. So are you.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. eshala — steam; strong drink — Name what rises from the first cup. The season opens under it.

2. dorne — a guest — For the citizen at the second table. There is always a second table.

3. hallen — a friend — For whoever pours after the service. Pouring is a title in Teadber.

4. parmor — a whisper — The correct volume for a leaf-reading. The leaves are shy in the dark.

5. esh — fire — For the kettle's small altar. Name it early; the parrots are counting whistles.

6. parfe — a parrot — The wooden kind counts the cups. The feathered kind counts on the howling.

7. witel — a Twist — The stakes, in this city, are sometimes the stakes. Name them before you play.

8. dor — house, holding — For the house that warms the pot first. Every street has one; be it when you can.

9. vavas — a queue — At Window 2 your cup may say it for you, and hold your place besides.

10. ala — water — Tea's first principle and this week's second lesson. Say it when the cup lands.

11. moril — the moon — Half of it is poured today. Greet the poured half.

12. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — The patrol's correct address, between teas. Offer nothing else.

13. morfe — a raven — Address the Elder by function. It takes its tea black and its confessions straight.

14. Ulvor — thank you — The day's whole settlement. Fathers are thanked in the unicorns' coin: settled, never owed.

15. verthil — a frayed truth — For a forecast that will not elaborate. There is no word for lie; use this gently.

16. tel — time; a minute — The steep's unit of mercy. Give one thing today three more of them.

17. shara — light — For the sweet note the day holds. Scarce words sweeten; spend it once.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will trade you one over tea. The stains are emphasis; accept.

19. kaelam — a human — What the skin's tenant was, and you, in it, briefly. Mind the laundry ruling.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, a keeper, and a list. Nothing is served past it; ask for nothing.

21. os — teeth, bone (currency) — The pot is the prize, but settle the side-stakes properly. Name the currency first.

22. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole — For the table that pours for you. The plural is the compliment.

23. Sil. — quiet — The whole vocabulary required while the patrol passes. Hold your cup and your tongue.

24. ilven — window — The good cups are kept by it, on the shelf, in the light. Name it when they come down.

25. nos — paper; record — The pot's tally is kept under it. So, this week, is everyone.

26. ven — door, gate, threshold — For the door a borrowed cup goes home through. Walk it back by sundown.

27. sil — silent, secret; hide — The last leaves' whole vocabulary. Respect it; the season earned this word.

28. amsolla — I, all of me; I swear it — For As-Filed Night: the whole self, taken as filed. Say it like a stamp coming down.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE STEEP (the 1st).

The tea season opens at the district office with the first pouring, and the rules are the rules everywhere the season is kept: one invitation, one teapot, no plus-ones. The Steep is not a party. The Bureau is firm about this, annually, in writing, over tea, at what any outside observer would call a very good party. FATHER'S DAY (the 14th). Fathers are honored as filed — by blood, by countersignature, by stove and window and being named correctly by a child pointing. The midday meal is the observance; thanks are settled in full, in the old word, Ulvor, which the unicorns also use, because thanks, properly done, is a settlement and not a debt. The Bureau's card for the day is printed without a joke on it. The Bureau checked. There is simply tea on it, and the date, and room for a name. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 19th). The district office issues skins, sized by estimate, and Teadber adds its single amendment to the standing rules: return it unstained. Take tea standing, at a counter, over a saucer. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. AS-FILED NIGHT (the 28th). The season closes as it stands. Nothing is improved on As-Filed Night — no dish re-seasoned, no filing re-drafted, no apology re-worded. The month is taken exactly as filed, and citizens sit up with it a while, with the last of the tea, in the particular tenderness of a thing allowed to be finished. The auction follows in the square. The kettle that ticks is sold to the Bureau. It is always sold to the Bureau.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Teadber is tea season: the month the city slows to the speed of a steeping pot and conducts its business at the temperature of company. The Office's account is that the season was scheduled for the citizens' health — a month at half pace keeps the other eleven honest. The street's account is shorter. The street says the city invented tea season because Gloomber needed somewhere to go. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for its levy — the small tax on leaves that funds the district offices' own pots, so that the Bureau drinks, legally, on the citizens' account, and files the fact without embarrassment. The disputed account, filed by the tea merchants' association and marked Disputed in the margin: the month is named for the first citizen who ever made a clerk wait while the pot steeped, and was not punished, because the clerk drank too. The Committee prints

both accounts and rules on neither. The merchants further file — Disputed, again — that As-Filed Night began as a kitchen rule, one cook's refusal to re-season a finished dish, and spread from the kitchens to the windows because the whole city recognized itself in it. The Bureau's comment on this filing is on record. It reads: taken as filed.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — LEFT STEPS. Effective the 1st of Teadber, the daily allowance of left steps is raised by two for the season, to account for the walking between tables. The ravens are counting, at their leisure, between teas. Citizens are reminded that a step taken carrying a full pot counts once, however it feels. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — TEADBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: nails clipped (one hand per sitting, as filed; tea stains are not nails and are not counted, the parrots wish it noted), scratches when itching, and yawns in public during readings of the leaves, which are forgiven in the room. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose methods are their own. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. Tea will not be served to the proceedings. This notice is printed monthly at the Council's request and the Committee's expense. MANDATE REPORT — CUPS. Borrowed cups are due back on the 26th, washed, names filed in the saucers. After the 26th, an unreturned cup is, by law older than the Bureau, a relative, and will be seated and fed accordingly at the borrower's table for as long as it stays. Choose your relatives carefully. Everyone in Teadber does.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE NINTH STEEPING, TEA MERCHANTS — The ninth steeping of any leaf is free, Teadber only, because by the ninth the leaf has told you everything and charging for it would be gossip. First eight at the season's price. Bring your own cup or borrow ours and become family. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) WIDOW POL'S TEA ROOMS, WINDOW 2 ARCADE — One pot held at temperature for one citizen per day, names drawn at nine. If your pot is held, your place in every queue that day is held with it. The Widow's ruling on sugar is final and has never been published. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) CUP & COUNTER, OUTFITTERS TO BORROWERS — Saucers engraved while you wait; names filed inside at no charge. One free wash for every cup returned on the 26th. Late cups washed at family rates, which are lower, which is the lesson. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · TEADBER

Teadber

Winter (folk) · as the Index files it: Tea season below.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

Tea season below. One invitation, one teapot, one social circle. I have received one invitation. I have sent one teapot.

Father's Day on the 14th. Winks cost three teeth. Budget for winks.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Teadber 1	The Steep
Teadber 14	Father's Day
Teadber 28	As-Filed Night

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

GHOULDAY, TEADBER 7

Broosly, called Brooslyguru. File opened in tea season. The tea was at exactly the right temperature. It still is.

THE WHITE MOON

● Teadber 4 new · ◑ Teadber 11 first quarter · ○ Teadber 18 full · ◐ Teadber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- Tea, good, for the visitor below
- A blank form, for the visitor, signed
- Teeth ×3, for winks on Father's Day
- A helmet
- A flashlight; batteries; a second flashlight, to be the one I am told to hold still
- Exact change, for the 24th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st
· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Teadber runs from Friday 21 January 2028 to Thursday 17 February 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Teadber 1 DAY 197 OF 392

THE STEEP RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Steep. Leave out tea and one blank form, signed. Check the signature at dawn.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Teadber 2 DAY 198 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Tea gone. Form filed. Signature legible, unfamiliar, in excellent ink. Filed under visitors.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Teadber 3 DAY 199 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Teadber 4 DAY 200 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Teadber 5 DAY 201 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Teadber 6 DAY 202 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Teadber 7 DAY 203 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Broosly, called Brooslyguru. File opened in tea season. The tea was at exactly the right temperature. It still is.

Brooslyguru's Filing Day. The tea will be at exactly the right temperature. Do not mention it.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Steep, and the Unpaid Visitor

FEASTDAY, TEADBER 1

The ghoul season opens below. One invitation, one teapot, one social circle.

- The Unpaid Visitor. On the first night of the season, households leave out tea and one blank form, signed at the bottom. By morning the tea has been drunk and the form has been filed, by someone. Children compare the signatures. No two households have ever found the same one. No one has seen the visitor, and the city has agreed not to try.
- The Single Invitation. Each household may send one invitation below, in one teapot. Choosing whom to invite is the season's great family argument.
- The Cold Cup. The last cup of the season's first pot is left to go cold, for whoever arrives late from below.

At the table: this year one household's form was filed with a signature the Index recognizes, and the signer has been dead for some time.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

String.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Teadber 8 DAY 204 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Teadber 9 DAY 205 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Teadber 10 DAY 206 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Teadber 11 DAY 207 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Dept. of Strategic Misfortune: Form U-DTH concerning Biscuit. Biscuit attended. Biscuit sat on the form.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Teadber 12 DAY 208 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Teadber 13 DAY 209 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Teadber 14 DAY 210 OF 392

FATHER'S DAY

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Father's Day. Alarm at six. Haikus at eleven. Helmet. Avoid the List of the Ungrounded. Hold the flashlight still.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Father's Day

GHOULDAY, TEADBER 14 · AN OFFICIALLY MANDATED OBSERVANCE

At precisely 6:00 A.M., a city-wide alarm shaped like a tired sigh signals the start of the Emotional Preparation Phase.

Father's Day is an Officially Mandated Observance of the Council. Enforcement is by wink only. Winks cost three Teeth.

It was not always so gentle. The day was originally the Day of Paternal Reckoning, and it was outlawed for a decade after too many dads attempted to unionize against the Eversworn Beast. The uprising failed when every father collectively forgot what they were mad about. The mandate is what replaced the reckoning. The forgetting is commemorated annually, whether the fathers remember to commemorate it or not.

Father's Day begins, as it always has, with mandated solitary confinement: the Great Isolation. Citizens are legally required to spend the first six hours of the day alone, dressed in garments they have personally disappointed their father in — a third-place fencing medal, for instance, or the festival costume in which they once impersonated the Ageless Goat before the whole congregation. During the Phase, citizens reflect on things like: how many of their traumas have grown up to have kids of their own; which table leg Dad was most likely to trip over; and what the mirror meant last year when it said, "not today, coward."

By 11:00 A.M., citizens emerge — disheveled, uncertain, faintly glowing — and deliver their pre-written Forgiveness Haikus into the mouths of roaming delivery tortoises. The tortoises accept them without comment and proceed at tortoise speed, which the Index is assured is the correct speed for forgiveness. All day, the city's investments smile: all stocks, bonds, paper pets, and emotional support onions in Montavera are known to smile eerily on Father's Day. No one trades on the day. It would be rude, and the onions would know.

Enforcement is light, because the day largely enforces itself. All citizens found skipping Father's Day are added to the List of the Ungrounded. The List is the day's only penalty and its most durable souvenir; names are added with care and removed, if at all, by procedures the Index has not been shown. Icaron is filed, as every year, as present and refusing comment — the sighting in full is filed at 11.3, where sightings belong, and the Calendar does not stage it twice.

At some point in the proceedings, every father asks the question. "Do you know why I brought you into this world?" No one has ever answered correctly. That's why we wear helmets.

And then — the fathers arrive. Real ones. All of them. Every dad in Montavera, dressed in ceremonial cardigans, arms full of items only they know how to operate.

In the evening, as the sun droops like a tired eyelid, the city gathers at the Shrine of Second Chances, where citizens kneel in unison and chant: "We acknowledge your attempts at fixing the sink, and we forgive the duct tape." Then there is grilling. Charcoal is lit with forbidden matches, hot dogs are turned with wrench-like tenderness, and every father shares a single, city-wide beer that passes from hand to hand, absorbing jokes that don't land and memories that do. One by one, children whisper: "Thanks for coming back." And the fathers say: "You're welcome. Now hold the flashlight still."

They do not slay monsters. They do not fix the city. They do something much harder. They grill without complaint.

Happy Father's Day, Montaverans. It's the Montaveran Way.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Teadber 15 DAY 211 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Cleared of the List of the Ungrounded for another year. Procedures for removal remain unseen. Procedures for addition remain excellent.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Teadber 16 DAY 212 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Teadber 17 DAY 213 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Teadber 18 DAY 214 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Teadber 19 DAY 215 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Teadber 20 DAY 216 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Good: lent a ghoul an umbrella. Evil: it was the Lottery umbrella.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Teadber 21 DAY 217 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Teadber 22 DAY 218 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Teadber 23 DAY 219 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED



24

SUNSDAY Teadber 24 DAY 220 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Coin, on a Sunsday. Nobody answers on Sunsday anyway, so the difference will be small.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Teadber 25 DAY 221 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Teadber 26 DAY 222 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Teadber 27 DAY 223 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

As-Filed Night tomorrow. Read my file. Choose the error.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Teadber 28 DAY 224 OF 392

AS-FILED NIGHT · TONIGHT, THE EVE OF THE RECOPYING IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

As-Filed Night. Went out as recorded: "deceased, tall." Received many sweets. The children were dressed as their typos. One was dressed as an entire missing page, and won.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

As-Filed Night

THE NIGHT OF GHOULDAY, TEADBER 28 · THE EVE OF THE RECOPYING

Nobody in Montavera wears a costume, because dressing as someone else is a filing. On the eve of the Recopying, citizens instead dress as what their file wrongly says they are. Tomorrow the ledgers are copied fresh and the errors may be corrected. Tonight is the last night to be your typo.

- Going out as filed. Citizens go door to door dressed as their clerical errors: "I'm listed as a tall man." "I'm the version of me that's deceased." "My file says I'm two people, so we came together."
- Children go as their own typos , with their misspelled names on cards around their necks. Households give sweets in proportion to the severity of the error.
- The Most Wrong File wins a prize, judged by clerks, who are moved. The winner is the only citizen in the city who hopes the Recopying never finds them.
- The Missing Page. Each year one child goes dressed as an entire missing page. It is considered the great costume, and is very hard to do well.

At the table: a citizen dressed as their misfiling tonight is, according to the record, a person the party is looking for.

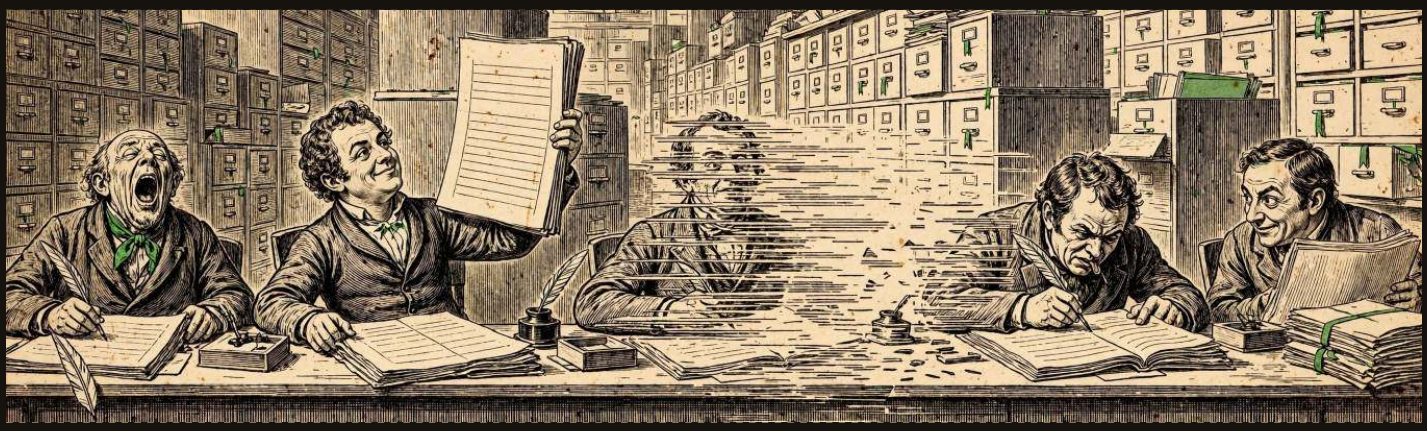
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE SEVENTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 225–252 OF THE YEAR

QUILLDER

Winter · The Recopying. Something is lost

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Rent. Deep City signups open. Pens out.	2 Every ledger is opened. Every page judged.	3 FILING DAY OF RECORD Other Skin Day. Attend service as another.	4 ○ New moon. The copyists work by touch.	5 BEING YOUR SOUL TO WORK DAY Being Your Soul to Work Day. File it first.	6 Community Howling Rites. Copies provided.	7 Factions Tournament. New decks, fresh ink.
8 computah skillz day. Bring your own skillz.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Hymns recopied.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half of every ledger recopied.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Pens down.	13 MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DISPUTED Elder Raven Confessional Hours. (Disputed.)	14 Factions Tournament. Scores recopied twice.
15 Copy your own file today. No witnesses.	16 Repetition Day: the Solstice Picnic, again.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Bring a copy.	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers recopy minutes.	19 Favorable day for fresh ink and old errors.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. Howling after.	21 Factions Tournament. The finalists recopy.
22 The recopying slows. The clerks do not.	23 Errors found today are forgiven once.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. All texts fresh.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The last ledgers open.	26 Good day to check a signature twice.	27 Leave Your Toddler at the Canyon Weekend.	28 Canyon Weekend, day two. Auction at dusk.

QUIL 15

Teadber pours tea for the ones from below;
Quillder recopies, and loses a row.

The Back of Quillder

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due, the Deep City signup window opens, and the Recopying begins, all on one morning, because the Bureau believes a citizen with a pen in hand is a citizen accounted for. Sign early. Copy carefully. The year you save may be your own file.

2. On the second of Quillder every ledger in the city is opened and every page judged against its copy. Pages that disagree with themselves are not punished. They are recopied, which the pages describe as the same thing, in a kinder hand.

3. Other Skin Day falls on a Sunsday this year. You will attend the Pseudo-Religious Service in the skin the district office issued you, sized by estimate, and the sermon will be addressed to whoever you appear to be. The Bureau counts this as outreach.

4. When the white moon is new, the copyists work by touch, in the dark, and their copies are considered the truest of the month. A copy you cannot see cannot flatter you.

5. Being Your Soul to Work Day. Citizens bring their souls to work, in the container of their choice, and file them at the desk before beginning. Souls are inspected at noon, returned at the close of business slightly used, and initialed. Absent souls must be explained in writing, by the body, which is considered poor form.

6. The Howling Rites are held outdoors. In Quillder, copies of the howls are provided at the gate for citizens who have forgotten theirs. The originals are kept by the choir, who are not generous.

8. computah skillz day. The name arrived at the Bureau spelled exactly so, on a form no clerk remembers accepting, concerning a device no office admits to owning. The day is observed by citizens who possess computahs, in ways the Committee cannot describe and has stopped investigating. The name is printed as received. The Bureau files what it does not understand with the same care as what it does. More, on bad years.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms: one for the Aria, one certifying that this year's copy of you is the current edition.

11. At the quarter moon, half of every ledger in the city stands recopied. The Bureau celebrates quietly, in duplicate.

12. The Nawn Coalition patrols Quillder on foot, in silence. Copyists are reminded that when a nawn passes the window, pens are set down. Not from fear. From respect for a colleague who files without hands.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th, and the 13th of Quillder is filed DISPUTED: some filings hold it is a Moonsday, others hold the dispute itself is the filing, and the Bureau prints the dispute rather than the answer. The Raven hears confessions either way. The Raven has seniority over the calendar.

15. Once a year the Index requires every citizen to copy their own file, by hand, in full, with no witnesses. Errors you make copying yourself are legally yours twice. Most citizens report the exercise restful. Most citizens are copying that report from last year's.

16. A Repetition Day. By order of the unicorns, today is Sunmanber the 18th again: the Solstice Picnic, repeated in the copying month, out of season and entirely official. Citizens picnic among the ledgers, on blankets, in their copying clothes. The picnic is filed twice. The ants are filed once and have appealed. Good luck.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting, at which the year's minutes are recopied from memory, argued over, and recopied again correctly, which is to say differently. Their final text is beautiful and binding on no one.

19. Fresh ink is favorable today and old errors are at their most legible. A good day to read your own file the way an enemy would, and forgive the penmanship.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. The Howling Rites are held afterward, outdoors, and citizens returning from below are excused from copying their howls. Some howl from memory. It is not the same, and everyone pretends it is.

23. Errors discovered in any ledger today, if confessed at the window before sundown, are forgiven once. The forgiveness is recorded in the margin, in the forgiving clerk's best hand, where it will shame the error forever.

26. Signatures fade in Quillder like everything else. Check yours twice today: once for the hand, once for the intent. The Bureau recognizes a signature by its hesitation and forgives both kinds.

27. Leave Your Toddler at the Canyon Weekend begins. Drop-off is at the Canyon Gate from dawn, where toddlers are received by the Canyon Wardens, labeled kindly, and issued a blanket and a number. The canyon is shaded, staffed, and experienced. Parents receive a receipt and the Committee's warmest wishes.

28. The Weekend concludes: toddlers are returned at the closing bell, counted twice, in keeping with the month. The In-Transit House auction follows at dusk, where unclaimed copies of things are sold to citizens who resemble their descriptions.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon thins to a paring. Copy your intentions before someone else does.

2. The suns rise in duplicate today. Choose the warmer errand; both are filed.

3. A borrowed face hears the sermon meant for it. Sit where it would sit.

4. New moon. Work by touch. What your hands know, your file has forgotten.

5. Your soul commutes well today. Carry it openly; it is inspected at noon regardless.

6. The moon waxes in good handwriting. Howl from the copy provided; mean the original.

7. A contest favors a fresh deck and an older grudge. Play the deck.

8. The suns decline to define today's observance. Neither does the moon. Flourish anyway.

9. Generosity before noon, in exact amounts. The queue copies your patience.

10. A hymn recopied is a hymn half yours. Sing the half you own.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-copied. The visible half is the binding one.

12. Watched, silently, by colleagues without hands. Set the pen down when they pass.

13. Confess upward. The moon's phase is disputed today; its discretion is not.

14. A game goes to the careful. The score will be written twice; win the second writing.

15. Your own hand betrays you kindly today. Copy slowly. It is a portrait.

16. A summer day in the copying month: eat outdoors, indoors. File the picnic twice.

17. The suns hold a fresh page open. Attend. Bring the copy of yourself you like best.

18. Full moon. The minutes of your life are recopied tonight from memory. Argue beautifully.

19. Ink favors the bold and errors favor the honest. Be both before sundown.

20. Below the city there is no moon to copy. One hour unrecorded. Spend it as an original.

21. The waning moon edits. Let it. What it strikes was a draft of you anyway.

22. The clerks outpace the moon today. Rest is also a filing; submit it.

23. A forgiven error shines in the margin. Confess early; the best hand writes first confessions.

24. The suns accept a fresh text gladly. So does the service. Attend recopied.

25. Quarter moon. The last ledgers open like slow doors. Your page is among them.

26. Your signature hesitates beautifully today. The moon recognizes it. So will the window.

27. A small citizen thrives out of your sight, under supervision, by a canyon. Trust paperwork.

28. The month closes twice, as everything here does. Be counted, be returned, be filed.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Open the Recopying with it. Fresh pages respect form.

2. nos — paper; record — Name what you are judging today. Everything is, briefly.

3. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for the citizen you are wearing.

4. moril — the moon — Absent tonight. Address your copying to it anyway, by touch.

5. am — I, the one singing now — For the soul at the desk: know who is presenting it.

6. selen — sing; file; record — The Rites are all three tonight. In that order.

7. harr — strike, fight — For the tournament table. File the victory, not the blow.

8. Unicornic — a scholar's word, filed under U — The closest the language comes to naming today's observance. Use it confidently.

9. vavas — a queue — Say it with reverence at Window 2. Bring both forms.

10. hallen — a friend — For whoever holds your hymn book open at the recopied page.

11. sev — place; ground — Indicate exactly where the half-finished ledger lies. Precisely.

12. venhal — a guard — For the patrol passing your window. Set the pen down as you say it.

13. lin sòlla sar — thirteen — Say it carefully today. The count itself is disputed.

14. vor — pay, price — Ask it before the rematch. The score is not the only thing copied twice.

15. selenmor — redaction — For the part of your own file you copy with a steady hand and a closed eye.

16. mora — memory; remember — Today's picnic is one. Attend it like a citizen of Sunmanber.

17. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — The service sings in it. Your copy is part of the whole.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will offer you one, recopied. Refuse the first draft.

19. ru — rune, mark — For the fresh ink. Every mark today is read twice.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, a keeper, and a list recopied nightly.

21. witel — a Twist — What the finalists play for, besides the older trophy.

22. vastel — elapsed time — Name the month so far. It has been longer on paper.

23. Am vèr — I'm sorry — The day's working phrase. Present it at the window before sundown.

24. on — seal — A fresh text deserves one. Press it like you mean the year.

25. morilvas — a month — This one, nearly copied entire. Handle the last pages gently.

26. lir — open, reveal; find — For the signature hunt. Yours is in there, hesitating.

27. neselen — a child — Count them at the gate, coming and going. The Wardens appreciate it.

28. sòlla sòlla sar — twenty-eight — The month's count, said whole. Never tally it on fingers in public.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

OTHER SKIN DAY (the 3rd).

Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate, to any citizen who applies in person. In Quillder the issued skin is understood to be a fair copy of somebody, and citizens are reminded that a copy, however faithful, is returned by sundown, dry, with the form. Attend the day's service as whoever you appear to be. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. BEING YOUR SOUL TO WORK DAY (the 5th). On this day citizens bring their souls to work. Souls are filed at the desk on arrival, inspected at noon, and returned at the close of business slightly used and initialed. Employers are reminded that a soul on the premises counts as present even when its citizen is elsewhere, and citizens are reminded that the reverse is not true. Souls not brought must be accounted for in writing, by the body, in its own hand, which the Bureau accepts and deplores in equal measure. computah skillz day (the 8th). The name is printed as received, on a form no clerk remembers accepting, concerning a device no office admits to owning and a skill no examiner can test. Citizens who possess computahs observe the day in private, with evident satisfaction. Citizens who do not are invited to observe it anyway, at a respectful distance, as the Bureau does. The Committee's entire guidance on computah skillz day is that it is annual, that it is today, and that the spelling stands. MOONSDAY THE 13TH (DISPUTED) (the 13th). Certain filings hold that the 13th of Quillder is a Moonsday. Other filings hold otherwise, with equal seals. The Bureau's position, printed here in full, is that the matter is DISPUTED, and the dispute is the record. Citizens planning around the 13th are advised to plan around it in both directions. The Elder Raven's confessional hours are unaffected. The Raven's seniority predates the question. REPETITION DAY (the 16th). A few days a year, the unicorns choose a day for you to repeat, at random, and today Quillder repeats Sunmanber the 18th: the Solstice Picnic, the year's longest light, held again in the copying month under a shorter sky. Picnics are held indoors among the ledgers, on blankets, with summer food eaten seriously. Everything filed today is filed twice. The Committee's entire guidance on Repetition Days is the official blessing, printed here in full: good luck. LEAVE YOUR TODDLER AT THE CANYON WEEKEND (the 27th–28th). A beloved institution. Toddlers are received at the Canyon Gate from dawn on the 27th by the Canyon Wardens, labeled kindly, issued a blanket and a number, and kept in the shade under continuous supervision. Parents receive a receipt, a map of the canyon they will not be entering, and the Committee's warmest wishes. Collection is at the closing bell on the 28th, at the same gate, on presentation of the receipt. Toddlers are returned counted twice, in keeping with the month, and are generally reported improved by the air.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Quillder is the seventh month, the Recopying, when every ledger in the city is copied fresh by hand and the year's first half is made true a second time, in better handwriting. It is the city's most honest month and its most tired. Ink is rationed generously. Clerks dream in duplicate and wake with stained cuffs, and the copies go out into the world carrying the authority of originals, which everyone politely pretends not to notice. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the quill, the instrument of the Recopying, dipped once for the city and once for the record. The street account: the month is named because in Quillder everything must be written twice, and a thing written twice needs a longer name than a thing written once. The disputed account, filed by the copyists' guild and marked Disputed: the month is named for a clerk, the first copyist, whose name the original ledger gives in full and every copy since has shortened differently. The Committee prints all three accounts and rules on none. The copies, asked directly, agree with each other, which the Bureau finds suspicious and has filed under weather.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — COPIES. Effective the 1st of Quillder, every citizen must hold a current copy of their own file, recopied within the month, and must be able to produce it at any window. Citizens whose copies disagree with the original are reminded that the disagreement is also filed, in both versions. The Bureau accepts either citizen. It prefers the one with better handwriting. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — QUILLDER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: nails clipped (raised for the season; copyists' nails trouble the page, and the Bureau is practical), and scratches when itching (ink under the skin is a known occupational sorrow). Both are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots. The parrots count the nails aloud, slowly, at night, in the walls. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. In Quillder the reminder is copied by hand onto every ledger's last page, in the clerk's best hand, so that the warning is the freshest thing in the book.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE FAITHFUL COPY, SCRIBES AT WINDOW 6 — Your file recopied in full, in our best hand, in one sitting. Second copy half price. We copy everything except signatures, which we admire and leave alone. Bring the original and a patient afternoon. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) PELL'S INK & TONIC — One bottle of ledger ink with every tonic; one tonic with every fourth bottle. Our ink dries true and our tonic dries faster. Not responsible for confessions written under either. Present this coupon at the green counter only. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MOTHER VELLUM'S BINDERY — One spine re-sewn free with every Recopying binding. We have rebound the city's memory for forty years and dropped it only twice. Loose pages are received without judgment and returned without comment. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · QUILLDER

Quillder

Winter (folk) · as the Index files it: The Recopying. Something is lost.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Recopying. Every ledger copied fresh. Something is lost. Last year it was a page of the Council's minutes, and the Council has not noticed. This year I have hidden nothing, to see what they lose instead.

Being Your Soul to Work Day on the 5th. The Index files the name exactly as issued. Sweet.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Quillder 5	Being Your Soul to Work Day
Quillder 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed

The Recopying · all month

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

SUNSDAY, QUILLDER 3

Ondine Sorrell. File opened during the Recopying, in triplicate: one for the client, one for the record, one for the sister.

THE WHITE MOON

● Quillder 4 new · ◑ Quillder 11 first quarter · ○ Quillder 18 full · ◐ Quillder 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- A typo, for As-Filed Night (choose from file; my file has several)
- Sweets, for children dressed as their typos
- Ink, fresh (the Recopying uses it all)
- Greeting card ×1, for Ondine Sorrell (expect three in return)
- Exact change, for the 15th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st
· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Quillder runs from Friday 18 February 2028 to Thursday 16 March 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Quillder 1 DAY 225 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Recopying begins. My file has been recopied. The tall has been corrected. The deceased stands.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Quillder 2 DAY 226 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Quillder 3 DAY 227 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Ondine Sorrell. File opened during the Recopying, in triplicate: one for the client, one for the record, one for the sister.

Ondine Sorrell's Filing Day. She will copy her own greeting card in triplicate. Send one card. Receive three.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Quillder 4 DAY 228 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Quillder 5 DAY 229 OF 392

BEING YOUR SOUL TO WORK DAY

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Being Your Soul to Work Day.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Quillder 6 DAY 230 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Quillder 7 DAY 231 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Being Your Soul to Work Day
TWINSDAY, QUILLDER 5
Today is "Being Your Soul to Work Day." Sweet. The Index files the name exactly as issued.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

A second pen, for countersigning myself.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Quillder 8 DAY 232 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Quillder 9 DAY 233 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Quillder 10 DAY 234 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Quillder 11 DAY 235 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Quillder 12 DAY 236 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

The outside world's intercalary day falls today. In the outside world it is a day that sometimes is. Here it is a Twinsday, which sometimes is twice.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Quillder 13 DAY 237 OF 392

MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DECLARED BY EMERGENCY DECREE · FILED DISPUTED · THE MOON HOLDS THE OTHER COPY *Wear a hat that isn't yours; eat an odd number of identical meals; speak in declarative questions?*

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Declared Moonsday, filed Disputed. The moon has the other copy. The moon will not discuss it.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Quillder 14 DAY 238 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

15

FEASTDAY Quillder 15 DAY 239 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Coin, on a Feastday. Debts and rumors due together. I have paid the debt and filed the rumor.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Quillder 16 DAY 240 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Ondine Sorrell's petition: due for review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Quillder 17 DAY 241 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Ondine Sorrell's petition: reviewed. Declined. Diary the next review.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Quillder 18 DAY 242 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Quillder 19 DAY 243 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Quillder 20 DAY 244 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Quillder 21 DAY 245 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Quillder 22 DAY 246 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Recopying has lost something. It has not yet been determined what. I am confident it was not important, because I cannot remember it.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Quillder 23 DAY 247 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Quillder 24 DAY 248 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Quillder 25 DAY 249 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Good: helped a copyist find a lost line. Evil: it was mine.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Quillder 26 DAY 250 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Quillder 27 DAY 251 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Quillder 28 DAY 252 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lot 14.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

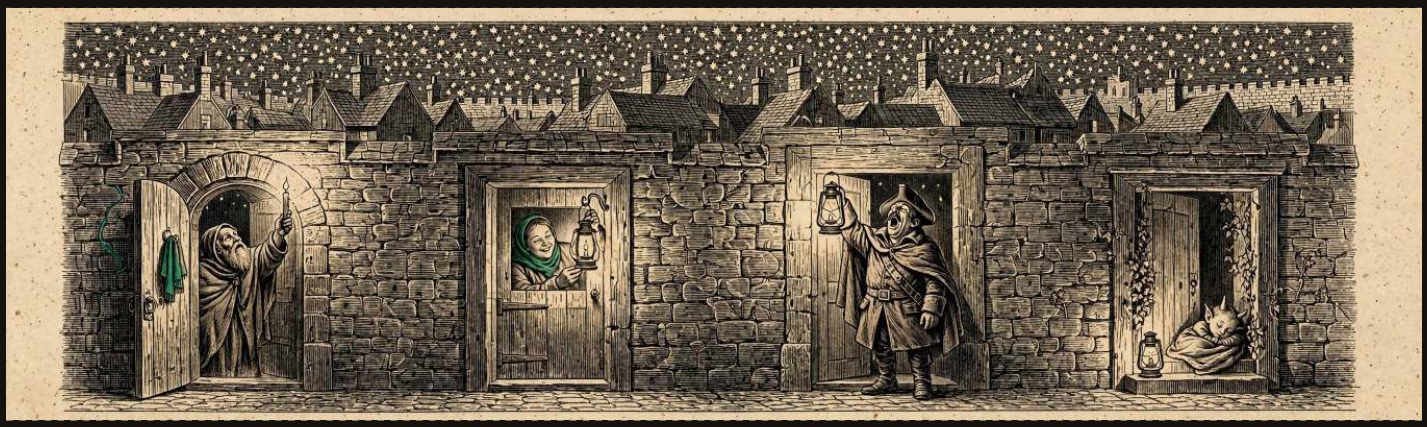
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE EIGHTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 253–280 OF THE YEAR

FROSTDER

Deep winter · The longest night. Starlight

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Rent. Deep City signups open. Mind the ice.	2 The frost files every window by morning.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Candles provided.	4 ○ New moon. The dark arrives early and stays.	5 Good day to mend a coat and a grievance.	6 Community Howling Rites. Breath visible.	7 Factions Tournament. Played in gloves.
8 THE DAY OF OTHER PLACES The Day of Other Places. Dress for elsewhere.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms, gloved.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Hymns at a simmer.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half the river is ice.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. The snow avoids them.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours. By firelight.	14 Factions Tournament. The cards are cold.
15 Favorable day for soup and second thoughts.	16 The wells are capped. The rumors are not.	17 FILING DAY OF RECORD Pseudo-Religious Service. Extra blankets filed.	18 ● FESTIVAL OF STARLIGHT Festival of Starlight. Full moon. Longest night.	19 Mandatory silence around the aged tridium.	20 Silence, second day. The visit is escorted.	21 Silence ends at sundown. Tournament tonight.
22 Snow on the ledgers. Read by candlelight.	23 Do NOT feed the statues today.	24 Other Skin Day. Someone warmer, perhaps.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The cold keeps its counsel.	26 The collectors wear scarves. Settle indoors.	27 The year's coldest queue forms at dawn.	28 In-Transit House auction. Tournament finals.

FROS 10

Frostder keeps Starlight, the longest of night;
Shroudber brings leases, in fog, out of sight.

The Back of Frostder

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due, and the Deep City signup window opens into Frostder's first cold. The list fills with citizens who find the deep warm by comparison. Sign early. The ice on the steps is filed as a crowd-control measure, and the Bureau leaves it there on purpose.

2. In Frostder the frost itself keeps the windows, inscribing each pane overnight in a hand no clerk admits to learning. The inscriptions are read at breakfast, argued over, and melted by noon. Nothing they have ever said has been wrong. Nothing they have ever said has been kept.

4. When the white moon is new in Frostder, the dark arrives early and stays late, like a relative. Lamps are lit at windows all over the city, less for the citizens than for the dark, so it can find its way around without taking anything.

6. The Howling Rites are held outdoors in all weathers. In Frostder the breath of the choir is visible, and the howls can be watched leaving, which the choirmaster considers a teaching aid and the neighbors consider a forecast.

8. The Day of Other Places. Once a year the city practices being somewhere else: doors are labeled with the names of elsewhere, windows are dressed as other weather, and citizens address each other by the customs of places none of them has been. Letters may be posted today to places you are not, and are answered, eventually, in unfamiliar hands.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms, gloved: the cold takes fingerprints first and paperwork second, and the Bureau wishes to receive both in working order.

11. At the quarter moon, half the river is ice and half is argument. Citizens cross on the ice where the ravens have marked it, and argue about the rest from the banks, warmly.

12. The Nawn Coalition patrols Frostder on foot, in silence, and the snow avoids them: their route stays bare all winter, a dark line through the white districts, which the Bureau maps and the plows respect. Do not wave. They are working.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th, by firelight, in the season when citizens have the most to confess and the least wish to say it outdoors. The Raven does not absolve. It files, close to the fire, where the confessions stay warm.

15. Soup is favorable today and second thoughts are at their most nourishing. The Bureau recommends both in the same hour, at the same table, in the company of whoever wronged you mildly.

18. The Festival of Starlight falls on the longest night of the year, under a full moon, and the city meets it with every light it owns: lamps, candles, lanterns, and the white moon doing the work of all of them. The pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting by starlight and agree on nothing, beautifully, in the cold. The Temple of the Suns keeps its lamps burning all night in honor of the absent suns, who are expected back by morning and are.

19. The mandatory silence around the aged tridium begins. It is observed around it, at a respectful distance. Citizens speak in filings for three days: notes passed hand to hand, petitions written small, apologies left where they will be found. The city does not get quieter. It gets more legible.

20. The silence continues. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs on time, in silence, and returns one hour later the same way, which returning citizens describe as the quietest quiet of the year. The Community Howling Rites are observed tonight in writing, in full, and filed with the choir.

21. The silence lifts at sundown, and the Factions Tournament is held in the evening for citizens rationing their first words carefully. Most spend them on the game. The Bureau considers this a healthy civic instinct and has never once said so out loud, until now, in print, which does not count.

23. Do not feed the statues today. The Bureau does not elaborate. In Frostder the statues are at their most receptive, which is the entire reason, and also classified.

24. Other Skin Day falls on a Sunsday this year. The district office issues skins with the season in mind: the borrowed are, on the whole, warmer. You will attend the Pseudo-Religious Service as somebody else, somebody better dressed against the cold, and the sermon will find you anyway. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form.

25. At the quarter moon the cold keeps its counsel and the city keeps its lamps lit a little longer against it. Debts of warmth are remembered kindly in Frostder and called in slowly.

26. The collectors make house calls in Frostder wearing scarves, and settling indoors is considered polite on all sides. A good day to owe less by evening than you owed at breakfast.

28. The In-Transit House auction is held by lamplight, and the tournament finals follow, in gloves, before a fire the auction house provides and itemizes. Lots that glow are sold as-is, which in Frostder is most of them.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon thins over ice. Begin the cold month filed, fed, and early to the window.

2. The suns rise pale and punctual. What the frost writes on your window concerns you.

3. A candle does double duty today: light, and company. The moon approves of both.

4. New moon. The longest dark so far. Keep a lamp lit for it; it is also a citizen tonight.

5. The moon waxes threadbare. Mend what you can reach; the rest keeps until the light returns.

6. Breath and moon both visible tonight. Howl where you can be seen doing it.

7. A gloved hand wins a small contest. The moon files the victory under warmth.

8. Elsewhere leans close today. The suns shine on another place through your window. Visit politely.

9. Generosity before noon, in wool. Ask early; the queue is cold and therefore honest.

10. A hymn at a simmer warms the whole row of seats. Sing the low part. Stay for supper.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-frozen. Cross only where the watchers have marked.

12. The moon's white eye follows the bare dark line of the patrol. Walk elsewhere tonight.

13. Confess by firelight. The moon is nearly full and keeps warm secrets in triplicate.

14. Cold cards favor the patient. Lose with your gloves on; it is also recorded.

15. Steam rises where the moon looks. A second thought, served hot, changes the day's flavor.

16. The suns are wells of light, capped against the cold. Draw rumors sparingly; they freeze too.

17. Blankets and moonlight, both filed in your name. Someone at the service shares theirs.

18. Full moon on the longest night. Every light in the city is yours briefly. Be visible, be kind.

19. The moon observes the silence too. Speak in writing; write as if it will be read aloud later. It will.

20. No moon reaches the Deep City. One hour of quiet luck, underground, unhowled. Return legible.

21. First words after silence carry further than intended. Spend yours on the game, or on one name.

22. Snow on the ledger of the sky. The waning moon reads your roof and moves on, mercifully.

23. The moon says nothing about the statues. Neither do you. That is the whole instruction.

24. A warmer stranger walks well for you today. Attend the service in their coat; return both by sundown.

25. Quarter moon. The cold keeps its counsel and so, wisely, do you.

26. Bargains by lamplight: the moon watches the collector's scarf, not his smile. Read both anyway.

27. The year's coldest queue forms before dawn and the moon is already in it, ahead of you, saving places.

28. The month ends by lamplight, lots sold, finals filed. The moon sets early. Follow it home.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Open with it through the scarf. Enunciation is a kindness in Frostder.

2. esh — fire — Name yours early. Every hearth in the city is a small office of warmth today.

3. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — The service sings in it. In winter it is also a blanket.

4. morilsil — a moonless night (coined at Pim's table) — For tonight exactly. Coin of a warm room; spend it indoors.

5. dor — house, holding — Name yours gratefully today. It is holding the cold out, unpaid.

6. selen — sing; file; record — The Rites are all three tonight, and visible.

7. harr — strike, fight — For the tournament table. Gloves on; the word lands softer.

8. kael — city — For the other one, today. You are a visitor there until sundown.

9. vavas — a queue — Say it with reverence at Window 2, at scarf height.

10. shara — light — For the candle they hand you. Carry it like a document.

11. moril — the moon — Half a lamp tonight, over half a river. Address it with respect.

12. venhal — a guard — For the patrol on its bare dark line. Do not wave as you say it.

13. morfe — a raven — The Elder's title at the fire. Greet the colleagues by function.

14. vor — pay, price — Ask it before the cards warm up. Cold prices are honest prices.

15. eshala — steam; strong drink — Order it after the soup. Winter permits, and so does the house.

16. ala — water — Under the ice today, patient as a filed claim. Drink it hot when it comes.

17. dorne — a guest — For whoever the cold sends to your row at the service. Move over.

18. fesev — the sky — Tonight it is full of filed lights. Look up with the whole city.

19. Sil. — quiet — The season's most useful word. Use it for three days by not using it.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City's, kept in silence today, and a keeper who signs instead of speaking.

21. thil — yes — Save it for sundown. First words are spent carefully in Frostder.

22. moraeth — nostalgia — For the snow on the ledgers. Last winter is in there somewhere, misfiled kindly.

23. Ver! — look out! — The statues' word, not yours. Keep it ready and uninvolved.

24. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for the warmer citizen you are.

25. thur — ancient — For the cold itself, which was here first and has the paperwork.

26. os — teeth, bone (currency) — What the scarfed collectors count. Settle indoors, in exact amounts.

27. nostel — recorded time — The queue at dawn is in it already. You are later than the record.

28. ulvor — settlement — The auction's last word tonight. Say it when the lamps are lit and the lots are gone.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE DAY OF OTHER PLACES (the 8th).

Once a year, the city practices being somewhere else. Doors bear the names of elsewhere; windows are dressed as other weather; tea is served in the manner of places no citizen present has visited, with great confidence. Citizens correspond today with places they are not, and the replies, when they come, arrive in unfamiliar hands and are treasured. The Bureau's position is that a city which can be elsewhere for one day is less likely to leave. The Bureau permits the practice and files the maps. FESTIVAL OF STARLIGHT (the 18th). The longest night of the year is met with every light the city owns. Lamps are set at windows, candles at thresholds, lanterns along the patrol's bare road, and the full white moon does the work of all of them from above. Citizens walk the lit streets slowly, visiting each other's light like relatives. The Temple of the Suns keeps its lamps burning the whole night through, in honor of the absent suns, who return in the morning to find their temple warm and their congregation asleep in the pews, filed under rest. MANDATORY SILENCE AROUND THE AGED TRIDIUM (the 19th–21st). For three days the city observes the mandatory silence. It is observed around the aged tridium, at a respectful distance, and it is total in the mouth and busy in the hand: petitions are written small, confessions wait, arguments are conducted by correspondence and several famous feuds have been settled by citizens who discovered their grievance would not survive being spelled. The Bureau accepts filings throughout, stamped soft. At sundown on the 21st the city speaks again, all at once, and the sound is described in the record, every year, as weather arriving. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 24th). Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate. Frostder's issue is the year's most requested: the borrowed, in this season, run warm. You will be somebody better insulated until sundown — their errands, their weather, their seat at the service — and you will return the skin dry, with the form, by sundown. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. The office reminds citizens that gratitude is not a deposit and will not be refunded.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Frostder is the eighth month, deep winter, when the river becomes a road, the frost keeps the windows, and the city turns inward toward its fires and its files. It is the quietest month and, under the quiet, the busiest: more is confessed, settled, mended, and forgiven in Frostder than in any month with better weather, because there is nowhere else to go with it. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the frost that files every window by morning, the Bureau's oldest unpaid clerk. The street account is cozier: the month is named because in Frostder the whole city is frosted over like a cake for a celebration nobody scheduled, and citizens eat the winter in slices, one dark day at a time. The disputed account, filed by the river pilots and marked Disputed: the month is named not for the frost but for the first citizen who walked the frozen river end to end and charged the city a toll at the far bank, which the city paid, in teeth, and has been reimbursing itself ever since. The Committee prints all three accounts and rules on none. The frost, asked directly, wrote on the window and melted before it could be filed.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Frostder, the frozen river may be crossed on foot only where the ravens have marked the ice, and streets downhill of the Temple may be crossed only at a walk, whatever the citizen's hurry. The one street along Sollen's Mouth remains a looking-street: citizens may look at it, and may throw paper airplanes into it, wishing they could fly across on one of them. In winter the airplanes are retrieved frozen, filed flat, and answered in the spring. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — FROSTDER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: yawns in public (raised for the season; a yawn in Frostder is visible from two districts and the Bureau is not cruel), and tears shed (tears freeze, and the count must be taken before they do). Both are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final. The parrots count from inside the walls, where it is warm, and accept no correction. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. In Frostder the Council hears such cases near the fire, and the walk to the hearing is the coldest part of the sentence.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

EMBER & NIECE, CHANDLERS — Two candles bought, the third is lit for you in the shop and carried home burning, Starlight week only. Our wicks are honest and our niece is quick. Drips are forgiven; darkness is not our department. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE LONG COAT, TAILORS & OUTFITTERS — One free relining with every coat let out for winter. We have warmed the city's better strangers for thirty years. Borrowed shapes accommodated on the 24th without questions or measurements beyond the usual. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE WARM WINDOW, SOUPS & STEAM — One bowl of soup, the second bowl at half price, the third thought about kindly and without charge. Our window steams so citizens can find us in Frostder fog. Present this coupon before the second bowl. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · FROSTDER

Frostder

Deep winter (folk) · as the Index files it: The longest night. Starlight.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The longest night. The Festival must go on. It has never asked whether it should.

Mirros's Filing Day is the 17th. He has already described it.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Frostder 8	The Day of Other Places
Frostder 18	Festival of Starlight

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

SUNSDAY, FROSTDER 17

Mirros. File opened the day before Starlight. He described it the day before that.

THE WHITE MOON

● Frostder 4 new · ◑ Frostder 11 first quarter · ○ Frostder 18 full · ◐ Frostder 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- Lamp oil
- Candles, one per window, plus one unlit
- Rat feathers, for the night ferry, in case
- Exact change, for the 10th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Frostder runs from Friday 17 March 2028 to Thursday 13 April 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Frostder 1 DAY 253 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Frostder 2 DAY 254 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Frostder 3 DAY 255 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Frostder 4 DAY 256 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

White moon new. Lamp oil.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Frostder 5 DAY 257 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Frostder 6 DAY 258 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Director Laud: thirty years without an accident. Attend the anniversary by memo. Bring nothing that could cause one.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Frostder 7 DAY 259 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Una cosa.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Frostder 8 DAY 260 OF 392

THE DAY OF OTHER PLACES

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Frostder 9 DAY 261 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

10

SUNSDAY Frostder 10 DAY 262 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Coin, on a Sunsday. Second this season. The farmer favours Sunsdays when it is cold.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Frostder 11 DAY 263 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Bone Bank. They have asked for my teeth back. I have explained the agreement. They have explained the agreement back.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Frostder 12 DAY 264 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Frostder 13 DAY 265 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Frostder 14 DAY 266 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Day of Other Places

FEASTDAY, FROSTDER 8

Citizens who came to Montavera from other places brought their holidays with them. The city has made room for all of them, on one day. On the Day of Other Places every holiday from every other place is kept at once, in every household that brought one. The first law of the day is its allotment: one day. The other three hundred and ninety-one belong to the city's own observances, which are compulsory, and which nobody has ever been required to explain. The second law is volume. A holiday from another place must be kept loudly enough to be heard next door. It must be explained to the neighbors, in full, whether or not they asked. Neighbors who decline to join must be made to feel it. By sundown each celebrating household files at least one complaint against a neighbor for insufficient observance. The Bureau processes the complaints the following morning and finds every one of them valid. No penalty attaches. The finding is the penalty.

- The Explaining. Each household explains its holiday to every neighbor within earshot, from the beginning, including the parts the neighbor already knows. The neighbor must nod. Nodding is logged.
- The Look. Practised at home in the weeks before. It is aimed at any neighbor not joining in, and held until the neighbor joins in or goes indoors.
- Form OP-1, Complaint of Insufficient Observance. Issued free at every counter on the day, and filed in triplicate: one copy for the Bureau, one for the neighbor, and one to be read aloud at the neighbor's door.
- The Clearing. At midnight the allotment ends. Every decoration from every other place comes down by the first bell, and the city returns to its own observances, which are kept, as always, compulsorily and without explanation.

At the table: a party member from another place has been reported by their whole street for not being loud enough about a holiday they have never heard of.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Frostder 15 DAY 267 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Frostder 16 DAY 268 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Frostder 17 DAY 269 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Mirros. File opened the day before Starlight. He described it the day before that.

Mirros's Filing Day. He described Starlight to me in detail yesterday. It was accurate. It was also yesterday.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Frostder 18 DAY 270 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

FESTIVAL OF STARLIGHT THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Festival of Starlight. Full moon. Candles in every window. One extra, unlit, for whoever needs to see the window from outside.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Frostder 19 DAY 271 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Starlight went on. It always does. The night was longer than last year by one paragraph of the minutes.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Frostder 20 DAY 272 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Frostder 21 DAY 273 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Festival of Starlight
MOONSDAY, FROSTDER 18

The longest night. The Festival must go on.

- One candle in every window, and one more, unlit, for whoever needs to see the window from outside and know it is still a window.
- The Longest Story. Families tell one story through the whole night, taking turns. It must not end before dawn. If it ends early, a second story is begun, and the first is filed as a draft.
- The Going-On. At the darkest hour every household opens its door for one breath and says "Going on" to the street. The street, as a rule, goes on.

At the table: someone needs the Festival not to go on this year.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Frostder 22 DAY 274 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Good: walked a stranger home through the dark. Evil: the long way.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Frostder 23 DAY 275 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Frostder 24 DAY 276 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Frostder 25 DAY 277 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Gornola. Ask about Lease Night. Keep the second answer.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Frostder 26 DAY 278 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Frostder 27 DAY 279 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Frostder 28 DAY 280 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lot 14.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

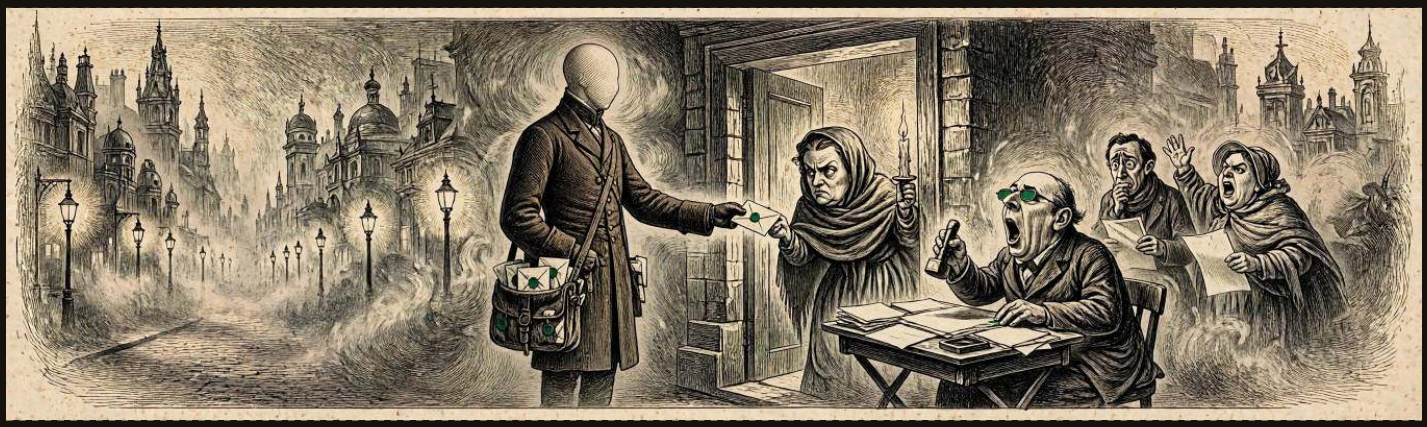
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE NINTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 281–308 OF THE YEAR

SHROUDBER

Late winter, fog · Leases end

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 THE DAY OF BEING RIGHT The Day of Being Right. Rent also due.	2 The fog signs nothing. It witnesses all.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Fog in the pews.	4 ○ New moon. The fog files the sky.	5 Good day to read the small print aloud.	6 Community Howling Rites. Leases permitting.	7 Tournament. Lock-in & Retreat tonight.
8 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Fog division.	9 Other Skin Day. Aria Distribution too.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Bring a witness.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half a lease is still binding.	12 Every lease has a fog clause. Find yours.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours. Sealed.	14 ▲ QUARTER DAY Quarter Day. Tournament at the registry.
15 Favorable day for measuring a room twice.	16 Letters from the Oscu estate are expected.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Fog sings too.	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers dispute leases.	19 Do NOT sign in the fog today.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. Howling after.	21 FILING DAY OF RECORD Factions Tournament. Fog on the field.
22 The landlords are filed. The tenants too.	23 Good day to be provisionally forgiven.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. Bring a witness.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The fog thins at the edges.	26 Count your windows. The fog counts back.	27 PROVISIONAL APPROVAL DAY Provisional Approval Day. Nearly binding.	28 LEASE NIGHT Lease Night. The auction adjourns early.

SHRO 9

Frostder keeps Starlight, the longest of night;
Shroudber brings leases, in fog, out of sight.

The Back of Shroudber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. The Day of Being Right is also rent day and the opening of the Deep City signup window, and the Bureau would not have it any other way: every citizen begins Shroudber correct, housed or pursued, and first in line for the deep. See the Special Days. Bring your one right thing and your rent; both are received at the same window, with the same expression.

2. The fog in Shroudber signs nothing — fog cannot hold a pen and has never claimed otherwise — but it witnesses everything, and its testimony is accepted at every window in the city. Citizens conduct themselves accordingly, which is to say better than their leases require.

4. When the white moon is new, the fog files the sky in its place and the city proceeds on the fog's word. Appointments made under a filed sky are binding. Apologies for the sky are not accepted; the fog keeps its own counsel and its own hours.

6. The Howling Rites are held outdoors, leases permitting: several districts hold their rites on land whose agreements specify volume, hours, and the treatment of echoes. The echoes are tenants in good standing and are howled back to politely.

7. The Junior High Lock-in & Retreat is held tonight, in a hall the Bureau selects annually and describes annually as adequate. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. The other parents have been notified. The Factions Tournament runs concurrently in the same building, separated by a curtain, a rulebook, and mutual respect.

8. The Nawn Coalition patrols Shroudber's fog on foot, in silence, distinguishable from the fog mainly by intention. Citizens are reminded that a shape in the fog that does not move toward you is working. A shape that does is also working. Walk on.

9. Other Skin Day falls on the Aria Distribution day this month, and Window 2 serves both queues, which alternate: a skin, an allowance, a skin, an allowance, with the patience the Bureau is famous for. You will draw your Aria as somebody else this month, and the forms account for it; the Bureau thought of everything except a shorter line.

12. Every lease in the city carries the fog clause, concerning what the fog may enter, witness, and keep. Find yours today, while the month is young and the fog is still only reading over your shoulder.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th, and in Shroudber the confessions are received sealed: spoken into the fog, receipted by the Raven, and filed where the fog keeps its own copies. Citizens report sleeping better anyway.

14. Quarter Day: the quarter's accounts are squared at the registry, leases are measured against the rooms they describe, and discrepancies are introduced to each other formally. The Factions Tournament is held at the registry afterward, so that citizens may lose at something smaller before sundown.

16. Letters from the Oscu estate are expected this month, as they are every Shroudber, arriving the way they arrive: in the fog, by hand, unsigned for, and found signed-for already. Citizens receiving one are reminded that Lease Night is the 28th, that the letters keep until then, and that opening one early is permitted and unwise.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting, devoted this month to leases: they dispute every clause in the city, beautifully, in writing, and bind no one. Landlords attend in disguise. The disguises are also disputed.

19. Do not sign in the fog today. Signatures witnessed only by fog are honored by the fog, in the fog's jurisdiction, under the fog's terms, which are extensive. The Bureau's clerks will be indoors, dry, and available. Use them.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. The Howling Rites follow outdoors, and returning citizens howl with a certain authority this month, having recently been somewhere the fog is not.

23. Forgiveness is provisionally available today at most windows, pending ratification, review, and the forgiveness of the forgiveness. Citizens report that provisional forgiveness feels exactly like the other kind until it doesn't, which the Bureau accepts as a definition.

25. At the quarter moon the fog thins at the edges of the city, and citizens walk out to the thinning to look at the countryside the way one looks at a clause one is considering. It is still there. It is still binding.

27. Provisional Approval Day: see the Special Days. Every application in the city is approved today, provisionally, which is the Bureau's favorite tense and Shroudber's whole philosophy in one stamp.

28. Lease Night: see the Special Days. The In-Transit House auction adjourns early tonight, by tradition and by letter: some of its lots are leases, and the leases are otherwise engaged.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon thins behind fog. You are right today about one thing. The moon knows which. Ask it last.

2. The suns are present but unwitnessed. Conduct yourself as if the fog were taking minutes. It is.

3. A hymn arrives muffled and means more for it. Sit where the fog sits: everywhere, briefly.

4. New moon, filed sky. Proceed on the fog's word. It has never once been contradicted in its own office.

5. The moon waxes in fine print. Read your day twice; the second reading is the binding one.

6. Howls carry through fog and through clauses. Check your lease, then join at full volume.

7. A small contest and a long night share a building. The moon counts who returns. So should you.

8. Watched in the fog by shapes with intentions. The moon's eye is on the patrol. Walk like a tenant in good standing.

9. A borrowed shape draws your allowance today. The suns approve the arrangement before noon; the queue does not.

10. Bring a witness; the moon is one, but distant. A nearer witness warms the service and the seat.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-binding. The half you cannot read still holds. Measure twice.

12. Your fog clause activates in moonlight tonight. Find it before it finds your evening.

13. Confess into the fog. The moon is nearly full, the Raven is nearer, and both keep sealed copies.

14. A square account shines. The moon ratifies small losses today and measures large ones kindly.

15. Measure your rooms twice; the moon has already measured them once, from above, unsparingly.

16. A letter travels toward you through the fog. The moon does not hurry it. Neither do you.

17. The suns hold a long, obscured note. The fog sings too, off pitch, with feeling.

18. Full moon through fog: everything is visible, softly, including your lease. The pamphleteers take notes.

19. Sign nothing under this moon. Its light is a witness the fog can overrule. Wait for a dry day.

20. Below the city there is no fog and no moon. One hour of clear air. The howling after will be earned.

21. The waning moon edits leases and games alike. Lose the smaller thing beautifully tonight.

22. Filed, both sides of the door. The moon stamps the landlord's copy and yours with the same seal.

23. Provisional mercy in a waning light: accept it today, ratify it when you can, forgive in full later.

24. Bring a witness to the service and to the week. The moon witnesses the rest, through fog, in triplicate.

25. Quarter moon. The fog thins at the edges; so does the month. Look at the countryside. It holds.

26. Count your windows at dusk. The moon counts back, and its tally, as always, is one higher.

27. Nearly everything is approved today, including you, provisionally. The moon stamps it soft. Enjoy the tense.

28. Lease Night under a closing moon. What is read aloud in the fog is renewed, released, or answered. Be read kindly.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Say it like you are right. Today, filed, you are.

2. mor — dark, shadow — For the fog's better half. It is listening through all of it.

3. hallen — a friend — For whoever shares your pew and your weather at the service.

4. moril — the moon — Filed elsewhere tonight. Address the fog in its place, politely.

5. lir — open, reveal; find — The small print yields to it. Read aloud for full effect.

6. parmor — a whisper — For the clauses between the howls. Echoes are tenants too.

7. neselen — a child — Count them out loud tonight, coming and going. The Retreat appreciates it.

8. venhal — a guard — For the patrol shapes in the fog. Intention is their uniform.

9. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for what you are wearing, at the Aria window.

10. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — The service sings in it. The whole includes the fog.

11. sev — place; ground — Indicate the room being measured. Precisely; it is binding.

12. ulnos — a contract; a lease — Yours, specifically, today. Find its fog clause by lamplight.

13. morfe — a raven — The Elder's title. Confessions are greeted by function here, and sealed.

14. vasru — a deed — For Quarter Day at the registry. Carry it like it describes somewhere you love.

15. mora — memory; remember — A room measured twice is remembered correctly once. Say it at the second measuring.

16. nos — paper; record — For what is coming through the fog, by hand. Paper is patient. Be paper.

17. dorne — a guest — For whoever the fog sends to your table at the service supper. Feed them first.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will dispute you one. Accept nothing unsigned.

19. sil — silent, secret; hide — For your signature today: keep it, in every sense.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, and below it, for one hour, no fog at all.

21. witel — a Twist — What the tournament plays for when the fog takes the trophy's shine.

22. dorhal — a domain — Yours, however small, however leased. Name it standing inside it.

23. ul — debt, obligation — For what is provisionally forgiven today. It is still called this, kindly.

24. on — seal — A witnessed service deserves one. Press it dry, indoors, before witnesses.

25. thur — ancient — For the countryside at the thinning. It was binding before the city was.

26. ilven — window — Name each of yours tonight. The count is a census the fog also keeps.

27. thil — yes — Today's approvals all begin with it. Provisionally is understood, and unsaid.

28. onmaran — a law — For Lease Night: what is read aloud in the fog stands under it.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE DAY OF BEING RIGHT (the 1st).

Once a year, every citizen of Montavera is right about exactly one thing. The thing is filed in advance, in the citizen's own hand, at the district office, and for the whole of the 1st it stands: unarguable, unappealable, and correct. Arguments touching a filed rightness are suspended until the 2nd, when the city resumes being wrong in the usual proportions. The Bureau observes this day with genuine dread and immaculate paperwork. Citizens are advised to spend their one right thing on something that matters. Most spend it on the weather. The weather, filed, was right too. JUNIOR HIGH LOCK-IN & RETREAT (the 7th). The Lock-in & Retreat is held tonight in the hall the Bureau provides, which is adequate, and the Factions Tournament runs concurrently behind a curtain. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. Parents are reminded that a guarantee is a kind of prayer the Bureau has learned to say in numbers. The remaining parents have been notified, kindly, in advance, as a courtesy, so that nobody's evening is spoiled by arithmetic. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 9th). Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate, to any citizen who applies in person. Shroudber's issue shares Window 2 with the Aria Distribution, and the two queues alternate with ceremonial patience. You will be someone else until sundown — their errands, their fog, their place in the other line. Return the skin dry, with the form, by sundown. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. QUARTER DAY (the 14th). The quarter's accounts are squared today at the registry: leases measured against rooms, rooms against memories, memories against the filed copies. Discrepancies are introduced to each other formally and given until the next Quarter Day to become traditions. Citizens who owe the quarter anything leave owing it more precisely, which the Bureau counts as progress and the quarter counts as tribute. PROVISIONAL APPROVAL DAY (the 27th). On this day, every pending application in the city — every permit, petition, lease, license, pardon, and proposal of marriage filed and waiting — is approved. Provisionally. The stamp is beautiful and the approval is real, in the provisional tense, until midnight, when each approval must be ratified, renewed, or allowed to lapse into the ordinary mercy of the queue. The Bureau regards the day as its masterpiece: a city entirely approved of, for one day, in pencil. Citizens are advised to enjoy being approved of, and to file nothing today they cannot bear to have almost granted. LEASE NIGHT (the 28th). On Lease Night, every lease in Montavera is read aloud — in halls, at thresholds, over suppers — and is thereby renewed, released, or answered. It is also the night the Oscu estate's letters are opened: the letters that came through the fog all month, by hand, unsigned for and found signed-for already, are read at the readings, in the order received, and the fog attends every reading in the city at once, which is its one vanity. What the letters ask is between the estate, the tenants, and the fog. The Bureau keeps the envelopes. The Bureau has always kept the envelopes.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Shroudber is the ninth month, the fog month and the lease month, when the year's agreements come due for reading and the city proceeds for thirty — for twenty-eight days on the fog's word. Nothing in Shroudber is quite signed and nothing is quite unsigned; the whole month is written in the provisional tense, and citizens speak a little more carefully in it, the way one speaks in a room where everything is being witnessed. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the shroud of fog that covers the city while its leases are read, a curtain the Bureau insists is ceremonial. The street account: the month is named for what a lease does — it shrouds a room in words until the room can be seen again at the reading. The disputed account, filed by the tenants' association and marked Disputed: the month is named for the citizens' own conduct, who go about Shroudber muffled, courteous, and legally indistinct, like clauses. The Committee prints all three accounts and rules on none. ADVANCE NOTICE, filed with this history by the Bureau. Next year, this month's day numbers will be filed in the order received, not in order. The unicorns said so. All twenty-eight numbers will be present; the Committee wishes it noted that they were all present this year as well, some of them twice in the drafts. The flexibility makes it

easier on all our backs. Citizens planning next Shroudber around particular dates are advised to plan around all of them.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — LEASES. Effective the 1st of Shroudber, no lease may be signed in the fog, renewed unread, or witnessed by precipitation of any kind. Every lease must be read aloud once before signing, in a dry room, before a witness who is awake. The fog clause must be located and initialed by both parties. Leases signed in defiance of this report are honored, in the fog's jurisdiction, under the fog's terms, forever, which the Bureau offers as sufficient deterrent. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — SHROUDBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: scratches when itching (fog gets under the skin, and under the lease, and the Bureau sympathizes in writing), and feelings of being annoyed at landlords, at tenants, and at weather acting in a professional capacity. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots. The parrots keep the tenancy tallies and repeat nothing they are told in confidence, which is more than the fog promises. MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Shroudber, streets under fog may be crossed only where a lantern is lit at both ends. The street along Sollen's Mouth may not be crossed at all: citizens may look at it, and may throw paper airplanes into it, wishing they could fly across on one of them. In the fog the airplanes arrive slowly and are considered delivered when they are heard. Retrieved airplanes are filed as petitions and answered in order, in a dry room.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE SMALL PRINT, SCRIBES & READERS ALOUD — Your lease read aloud in full, slowly, twice, in a dry room, with the fog clause found and pointed at. Bring the lease and an hour. We do not summarize. Summarizing is how leases happen. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) HALF-LIGHT LETTINGS — One clause explained free with every letting viewed in fog. Our agents carry lanterns, measuring cords, and strong opinions about thresholds. Provisional approvals honored on the 27th at face value, which is to say hopefully. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE FOG LAMP EXCHANGE — One wick trimmed free with every lamp filled, Shroudber only. A lamp lit at both ends of a street is a legal crossing; we keep the city's ends lit. Exchanges of lamps between strangers are witnessed free on Lease Night. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · SHROUDBER

Shroudber

Late winter, fog (folk) · as the Index files it: Leases end.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

Fog. Leases end on the 28th. The Oscu Estate writes more letters that night than on any other. I have pre-answered.

Quarter Day on the 14th. Two Council denials this year, and one of them falls this month, on the 9th. Read it on the 8th.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Shroudber 1	The Day of Being Right
Shroudber 14	▲ Quarter Day · history revised · misprints burned · the Elder's petition decided
Shroudber 27	Provisional Approval Day
Shroudber 28	Lease Night

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

GHOULDAY, SHROUDBER 21

Imelda Prosk, Undersecretary for Continuity of Operations. File opened. File continues.

THE WHITE MOON

● Shroudber 4 new · ◑ Shroudber 11 first quarter · ○ Shroudber 18 full · ◐ Shroudber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- *Lease renewal (do not forget again)*
- *Letter-opener, for the seventieth letter*
- *A second lunch (pending approval on the 27th)*
- *Exact change, for the 9th (denied; buy it anyway)*

FALLING DUE

· Shroudber 28, midnight · Lease Night · unrenewed leases end

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Shroudber runs from Friday 14 April 2028 to Thursday 11 May 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Shroudber 1 DAY 281 OF 392

THE DAY OF BEING RIGHT RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Day of Being Right. Drawn by lot: a cooper's apprentice. She was correct about everything until midnight. The city has never run so smoothly. She will not be drawn again.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Shroudber 2 DAY 282 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Back to being wrong in the usual proportions. Filed.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Shroudber 3 DAY 283 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Shroudber 4 DAY 284 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 14 APRIL 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Shroudber 5 DAY 285 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Shroudber 6 DAY 286 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Shroudber 7 DAY 287 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Day of Being Right

FEASTDAY, SHROUDBER 1

One citizen, drawn by lot at dawn, is correct about everything until midnight. The ruling cannot be appealed. Disputes across the city are brought to them and settled at once. The city has never run so smoothly as on the Day of Being Right. The next morning everyone returns to being wrong in the usual proportions.

- The Drawing at dawn, from the ballot drum outside the Citadel. The drawn citizen is given a sash that reads CORRECT.
- The Queue of Disputes. Families bring their long-running arguments: who left the door open, whose turn it was, how a song goes. Each is settled forever, in a sentence.
- The Siblings' Observance. The siblings of the drawn citizen must agree with them for the whole day. This is considered the hardest observance in the calendar, and the most watched.
- The Sash is kept for life. Citizens who wore it are deferred to on that subject, by everyone, for the rest of their lives.

At the table: the citizen drawn this year has been asked a question whose correct answer will start a war.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Shroudber 8 DAY 288 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Council's denial is posted: Shroudber 9 will not be one. Exact change purchased regardless. Exact change.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED



SHROUDSDAY Shroudber 9 DAY 289 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Coin, denied. The day proceeded as a Shroudsday. Window 4 was closed. It is always closed. The denial has been entered into the record as having worked.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Shroudber 10 DAY 290 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Shroudber 11 DAY 291 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Shroudber 12 DAY 292 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Shroudber 13 DAY 293 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Shroudber 14 DAY 294 OF 392

▲ QUARTER DAY · HISTORY REVISED · MISPRINTS BURNED · THE ELDER'S PETITION DECIDED

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Quarter Day. Printing Company burns its misprints. The Elder's petition decided. The Elder remains.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

COUNCIL EDICT · POSTED SHROUDBER 8

The Council advises that Shroudber 9 will not be one. Exact change is not required. Exact change is not forbidden.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Shroudber 15 DAY 295 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Shroudber 16 DAY 296 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Shroudber 17 DAY 297 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Shroudber 18 DAY 298 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers. Fog. They agreed on nothing, invisibly.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Shroudber 19 DAY 299 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Shroudber 20 DAY 300 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Office of Standing Orders. Attend by memo. My memo has standing orders now.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Shroudber 21 DAY 301 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Imelda Prosk, Undersecretary for Continuity of Operations. File opened. File continues.
Imelda Prosk's Filing Day. File continues.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Shroudber 22 DAY 302 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Shroudber 23 DAY 303 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Shroudber 24 DAY 304 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Lease. Renew it. Renew it before the 27th.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Shroudber 25 DAY 305 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 5 MAY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Shroudber 26 DAY 306 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Shroudber 27 DAY 307 OF 392

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL DAY

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Provisional Approval Day. Every pending petition approved until midnight. Approved, among others: the Petition to Relocate the Elder (the Elder declined to be relocated, which was also approved); a citizen's petition to be taller (approved; he has not grown; he walks as if he has); and mine, for a second lunch. The approvals expired at midnight. The city has never once used this well. It is getting closer.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Shroudber 28 DAY 308 OF 392

LEASE NIGHT · AT MIDNIGHT IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lease Night. Seventy letters from the Oscu Estate. Sixty-nine answered in advance. The seventieth was addressed to the house.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

Provisional Approval Day

WHISPERSDAY, SHROUDBER 27

Every pending petition in the city is approved, for one day only. The approvals expire at midnight. Citizens are encouraged to have something pending. The city has never once used this well. It is getting closer.

- The Small Petitions. Families file the petitions they would never otherwise dare: to be taller, to have dessert first, to have the afternoon off, for the rain to wait.
- The Framing. Approvals are printed on good paper, and many households frame them. A framed approval has no force after midnight and is valued more for it.
- The Last Approved Minute. At 23:59 the city tries to use its approvals all at once. The clerks call it the loudest minute of the year.
- The Day Before Lease Night. Leases cannot be renewed by approval. Citizens try every year.

At the table: a petition the party filed long ago, which they had forgotten, is approved today, for one day only.

Lease Night

GHOULDAY, SHROUDBER 28, AT MIDNIGHT

Unrenewed leases end. The Oscu Estate writes more letters than on any other night.

- Counting the Letters. Children stay up to count the letters from the Oscu Estate that arrive in the fog. The household with the most is pitied all year.
- Reading Aloud. Each household reads one Oscu letter aloud by candlelight, in the voice of the Estate. It is the year's favorite performance, and nobody admits it.
- The Unaddressed Letter. Each year one letter arrives addressed to the house itself. The house is not consulted.

At the table: one letter this year is addressed to a party member, and their lease is not up.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Wax.

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE TENTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 309–336 OF THE YEAR

CHANDBER

Early spring · The Forecast of sanctioned calamity

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 THE FORECAST The Forecast is published. Rent due.	2 FESTIVAL OF MISALIGNED CONSEQUENCES FILING DAY OF RECORD Festival of Misaligned Consequences.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Prophecies optional.	4 ○ New moon. Nothing predicted. Suspicious.	5 FILING DAY OF RECORD Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Count nothing.	6 Community Howling Rites. Indoors, please.	7 Factions Tournament. Odds already filed.
8 Forecast: hail. The hail sends regrets.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Sermon: the sky.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half the forecast, kept.	12 A calm day. It was not in the Forecast.	13 MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DISPUTED Moonsday the 13th. Disputed. Confess anyway.	14 Factions Tournament. The forecast favors no one.
15 Other Skin Day. Weatherproof, hopefully.	16 Predicted storm files for an extension.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Umbrellas blessed.	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers denounce the sky.	19 The unlisted day. Nothing is scheduled.	20 The Annual Anti-Shadoran Parade.	21 Factions Tournament. Losers blame the moon.
22 Forecast: fine. Citizens stay indoors.	23 Good day to misread a cloud.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. The roof agrees.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The Forecast is reissued.	26 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. They saw it coming.	27 A predicted day, arriving as filed.	28 Tournament. In-Transit House auction after.

CHAN 25

Chandber foretells what the weather won't do;
Feastber eats everything. Oldber eats you.

The Back of Chandber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. The Forecast is published at dawn from the steps of the weather office: the month's calamities, sanctioned and scheduled in advance, so that citizens may plan around their disasters like civilized people. Rent is due the same morning, and the Deep City signup window opens. It is the busiest desk of the year.

2. The Festival of Misaligned Consequences celebrates the city's oldest civic fact: consequences arrive, but rarely at the address on the envelope. The festival has run thirty years without an accident. No programme has ever been filed. The Committee maintains this is why it works.

3. The Pseudo-Religious Service this month takes signs for its subject. Attendance is never predicted. It is merely expected, which the clergy find is the stronger instrument.

4. The Forecast predicts nothing for today. The district reads this as the month's boldest prediction, and the shops close early out of respect for it.

5. The Nawn Coalition patrols the routes where the Forecast has scheduled incidents. The incidents, out of courtesy, occur elsewhere. The Coalition files this as cooperation.

6. The Howling Rites are held under a predicted-clear sky; bring a coat anyway. In Chandber the rites serve as the district's second weather instrument: if the choir is rained on, the Forecast buys the drinks.

7. At the tournament, the odds are filed alongside the Forecast and are binding. A player who wins against the filed odds is congratulated warmly and quietly re-filed.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms. In Chandber the amount is forecast in advance; any discrepancy between the forecast and the Aria may be appealed to the weather, which does not sit.

11. Quarter moon. Half the month's calamities have now failed to occur on schedule. The Bureau calls this accuracy of a higher order and has promoted the clerk responsible.

12. Today is not in the Forecast. Citizens are invited to enjoy it in an orderly fashion and to report any enjoyment at Window 3, for the record, where it will be added to next year's evidence.

13. Whether today is Moonsday the 13th is disputed. The calendar says one thing; the moon's house says another; the Elder Raven hears confessions either way and files them under both dates. The Bureau rules on neither. Confess, and let the filing sort it out.

15. Other Skin Day. Skins are issued at the district office, sized by estimate, with the day's forecast printed inside the collar. The forecast is never right either, which citizens find comforting in a borrowed skin. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form.

18. The moon is full, and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth meet to denounce the Forecast formally, in writing, beautifully. Their counter-forecast is published tomorrow. It is also wrong, and they would not have it any other way.

19. Nothing is scheduled today. It is the month's blank page, and the old citizens call it the only honest day in Chandber. Spend it unrecorded, if you can.

20. The Annual Anti-Shadoran Parade processes at noon, and the whole district turns out for it. The grudge is old, total, and kept in excellent repair. The escorted Deep City visit departs before the parade and returns after it; the escort's timing is not negotiable. The Howling Rites are held in the evening, in the parade's wake.

22. The Forecast says fine. Citizens stay indoors. A fine forecast is the least trusted document in Chandber, and umbrellas are carried all month as a matter of doctrine, not weather.

25. Quarter moon. The Forecast is reissued for the remainder of the month, with corrections. The corrections are also a forecast, and will be corrected in Feastber, which has its own concerns.

26. The Nawn Coalition patrols again, and their report this month is a single page, mostly weather. They saw something coming. Nobody asks what. Asking is not the Coalition's custom, and answering is not either.

28. The tournament closes the month, and the In-Transit House auction follows it. Lots this month include six umbrellas (unclaimed), one barometer that predicts only the past, and one (1) consequence, misaligned, still in its envelope.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The moon thins to a filing edge. A published calamity avoids your street. The suns approve.

2. Consequences drift under a darkening moon. One arrives addressed to you, and it is a pleasant one. Keep it.

3. The suns rise in committee. A sermon finds the sentence you needed. Sit where it can see you.

4. New moon. The sky files a blank page. Write nothing on it loudly.

5. The moon waxes a nail's width. A patrol passes; your small luck goes uncounted. Good.

6. Waxing moon, loud evening. Your voice is forecast to carry. Aim it kindly.

7. The small moon of errands favors the prepared. A filed odd turns in your favor.

8. The moon grows; the hail does not. A regret sent to the wrong address returns as an apology.

9. Generous suns before noon. What is distributed today includes one thing not on the form.

10. The suns hold their note a breath longer. Someone preaches your exact situation. Coincidence is filed.

11. Quarter moon: half the sky lit, half the month foretold. Trust the lit half.

12. An unlisted calm under a growing moon. Enjoy it in an orderly fashion; it is being recorded.

13. Today may be Moonsday the 13th; the filing is disputed. Confess under both dates and be covered twice.

14. The moon nears full and the cards know it. Play the hand you were promised, not the one you hold.

15. A borrowed shape under a brightening moon: the weather inside the collar is wrong; the fit is not.

16. The moon fattens on a postponed storm. Your extension is granted by the sky itself.

17. The suns bless umbrellas and other small roofs. Stand under yours with someone.

18. Full moon. Every pamphlet is legible, including yours. Denounce carefully; you are also published.

19. The moon wanes over a blank page. Nothing is scheduled against you today. Rest is also a filing.

20. Below the parade route, the moon cannot see. March in its blind spot; the escort leaves on time regardless.

21. A waning moon refunds the losers in dreams. Blame it; it accepts blame professionally.

22. The finest forecast of the month, and the moon looks away. Stay in; the sky is showing off.

23. Clouds misread under a thinning moon. Your error is charming and only lightly documented.

24. The suns agree with the roof. A dry service; a wet heart; both filed.

25. Quarter moon. The sky issues corrections. Adopt one as your own and prosper quietly.

26. Watched from a kind distance. The patrol's report on you is one line, and it is weather.

27. The moon narrows to a signature. A predicted day arrives as filed, and so do you.

28. The last crescent keeps the auction honest. Bid on the past; it is the one lot that appreciates.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. telnos — a calendar — This month's sacred object. Handle the Forecast with both hands.

2. verthil — a frayed truth (there is no word for lie) — For a consequence that arrived at the wrong address. It happens here monthly.

3. parmor — a whisper — The service prefers them in Chandber. Louder prayers are filed as weather.

4. morilsil — a moonless night (coined at Pim's table) — For tonight exactly. Use it softly; the dark is listening.

5. venhal — a guard — The Coalition accepts the title without confirming it is one.

6. sharamor — a day; today — Name the day you are howling in. The rite keeps better time that way.

7. Vor ya? — what does it cost? — Ask before the first hand. The filed odds include feelings.

8. sil — zero (nothing is not a number) — For the hail that didn't. Absence, correctly numbered.

9. vavas — a queue — At Window 2, with two forms. Say it like a psalm.

10. selen — sing; file; record — The sermon's whole method. Hum a little of your paperwork.

11. moril — the moon — Half of her tonight. Address the lit half by name.

12. shàramor — yesterday — Where the calm day belongs, according to the Forecast.

13. lin sòlla sar — thirteen — Say it under both dates today. Coverage is coverage.

14. harr — strike, fight — For the tournament table only. Elsewhere it files as assault.

15. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for what you are wearing.

16. venon — a deadline — The storm's, extended. Speak of it respectfully; it may come back.

17. nosven — a counter window — Where the blessed umbrellas are inspected. Knock once.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will trade you one. Their counter-forecast is extra.

19. mora — memory; remember — The unlisted day is best kept this way. No record improves it.

20. Ver! — look out! — The parade's most useful word, and its oldest. Shout it with love.

21. voreth — the price that changed you — For the losers' table. Some defeats are tuition.

22. fesev — the sky — Today's suspect. Do not make eye contact.

23. ala — water — What the cloud was actually carrying. Misread kindly.

24. dor — house, holding — The roof's whole parish. Bless yours by name tonight.

25. nosru — a date — The reissued kind. Pinned over the old one, never instead of it.

26. thursev — a mountain — What the patrol watches from, in the reports. The reports are one page.

27. nostel — recorded time — Today arrived as filed. Congratulate it with the correct tense.

28. risfe — a Rat Feather — At the auction, admire only. You know the reminder.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE FORECAST (the 1st).

On the first morning of Chandber, the Bureau publishes the month's calamities in advance: every storm, shortage, queue, and inconvenience, sanctioned, scheduled, and printed at the Committee's expense. Citizens plan around their disasters like civilized people. A calamity that fails to arrive may be reported at Window 3; a calamity that arrives unlisted may be appealed, and the appeal is filed under weather. FESTIVAL OF MISALIGNED CONSEQUENCES (the 2nd). The festival celebrates consequences and their poor aim. Processions are routed to arrive at the wrong celebrations, prizes are awarded to the previous year's winners, and the closing ceremony is held at the opening. The festival has run thirty years without an accident. No programme has ever been filed. MOONSDAY THE 13TH (the 13th). Whether this day is Moonsday the 13th is filed DISPUTED, and this page does not settle it. The calendar keeps one account; the moon's house keeps another; the Elder Raven hears the day's confessions under both dates and charges nothing extra. Citizens are advised to behave as though it were, and also as though it were not. Most manage. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 15th). Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate, to any citizen who applies in person. In Chandber the day's forecast is printed inside the collar, at the weaver's insistence and the Bureau's expense, and citizens report that being wrong about the weather in somebody else's skin is an education the city provides nowhere else. Return the skin dry, with the form, by sundown. THE ANNUAL ANTI-SHADORAN PARADE (the 20th). The parade processes at noon along the long street, with banners, bands, and the district's children carrying the grudge's smaller flags. The grudge is old, total, unanimous, and in excellent repair; it is aired once a year so that it keeps. The Bureau reminds paraders that the escorted Deep City visit keeps its own hours today and that the escort does not wait for drums.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Chandber is the tenth month, the season of the Forecast, when the Bureau publishes the month's calamities in advance and the city practices the fine art of being disappointed on schedule. By the outside count it is spring growing confident. Inside the city it is simply the month the sky makes promises in writing. The year's filed couplet gives Chandber its employment, and the month has never once applied for other work: Chandber foretells what the weather won't do. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the Chand, the old office of predictors whose seal the Forecast still carries, and whose clerks were the first to sign the sky. The street account is plainer: a chandber, in the speech of the district, is any promise the sky makes in writing, and the month is named for its contents, like a jar. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed in the margin: the name is not a name at all but a warning label, pasted on after the first Forecast, and the weather has been misdelivered ever since. The Committee prints all three accounts and rules on none of them.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — CALAMITIES. Effective the 1st of Chandber, citizens are reminded that a forecast calamity which fails to occur is not cancelled; it is owed. Owed calamities are carried in the margin of the following month. Do not attempt to collect one early. MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Chandber, the street before the weather office may be crossed only in the direction the Forecast predicted. Citizens who cross it correctly three times in one month may apply at Window 2 for the certificate. The certificate is printed on paper that repels rain and attracts it in equal measure. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. This notice is printed monthly at the Council's request and the Committee's expense. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — CHANDBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: nails clipped (the month makes citizens nervous, and the parrots keep the tally), and scratches when itching, which are rationed kindly and counted without comment. All allowances are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose methods are their own.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE SECOND GUESS, PROPHETS & SONS — One filed forecast corrected in pen, free, when the sky disagrees. Corrections are also forecasts. Regret is billed separately. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) TOMORROW'S UMBRELLAS, BY APPOINTMENT — One umbrella held in reserve against any storm named in the Forecast. If the storm does not come, the umbrella is yours to keep dry. Reservations are weather permitting. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MISDELIVERIES ACCEPTED, WINDOW 5 — Consequences delivered to the wrong address exchanged for store credit, no questions asked. The questions are how you got it, and we already know. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · CHANDBER

Chandber

Early spring (folk) · as the Index files it: The Forecast of sanctioned calamity.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Forecast is published on the 1st. The weather disagrees on the 2nd. The Festival of Misaligned Consequences is also the 2nd. These may be the same event.

A declared 13th. The Bursar's hat is still in my possession. Return it after.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Chandber 1	The Forecast
Chandber 2	Festival of Misaligned Consequences
Chandber 13	Moonsday the 13th · declared · filed Disputed

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

SHROUDSDAY, CHANDBER 2

Oswin Laud. File opened on the day of the Festival of Misaligned Consequences. No programme is filed. Thirty years without an accident.

TWINSDAY, CHANDBER 5

Gornola. File opened in two places at once. One of three readings of this date is correct.

THE WHITE MOON

● Chandber 4 new · ◑ Chandber 11 first quarter · ○ Chandber 18 full · ◐ Chandber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- An umbrella (the Forecast); a second umbrella (the weather)
- Cards ×2, for Gornola, both addresses
- Return: the Bursar's hat
- Exact change, for the 25th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Chandber runs from Friday 12 May 2028 to Thursday 8 June 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Chandber 1 DAY 309 OF 392

THE FORECAST RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Forecast. Read the sanctioned calamities. Sign for the ones that concern my district.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Chandber 2 DAY 310 OF 392

FESTIVAL OF MISALIGNED CONSEQUENCES

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Oswin Laud. File opened on the day of the Festival of Misaligned Consequences. No programme is filed. Thirty years without an accident. Festival of Misaligned Consequences. No programme is filed. It went exactly as planned.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Chandber 3 DAY 311 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Chandber 4 DAY 312 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 12 MAY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Chandber 5 DAY 313 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Gornola. File opened in two places at once. One of three readings of this date is correct. Gornola's Filing Day. Send a card to both addresses.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Chandber 6 DAY 314 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Chandber 7 DAY 315 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Forecast

FEASTDAY, CHANDBER 1

The Department of Strategic Misfortune publishes the year's sanctioned calamities. The weather disagrees.

- Signing for one's calamities. Each household signs for the calamities sanctioned in its district, and keeps the receipt.
- The Weather Pool. Citizens bet rat feathers on which sanctioned calamity the weather will overrule first. The Department disapproves, and holds the largest stake.
- The Correction. When the weather disagrees, the Department publishes a correction to the weather. The correction is read in the square, and the weather is present.

At the table: a calamity has been sanctioned for the street the party lives on.

The Festival of Misaligned Consequences

SHROUDSDAY, CHANDBER 2

Today is a sacred and slightly cursed occasion in Montavera: the Festival of Misaligned Consequences. No programme is filed. The Index honors the absence by adding nothing.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Chandber 8 DAY 316 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Chandber 9 DAY 317 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Chandber 10 DAY 318 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Chandber 11 DAY 319 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Good: warned a citizen about a sanctioned calamity. Evil: the wrong one.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 19 MAY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Chandber 12 DAY 320 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Chandber 13 DAY 321 OF 392

MOONSDAY THE 13TH · DECLARED BY EMERGENCY DECREE · FILED DISPUTED · THE MOON HOLDS THE OTHER COPY *Wear a hat that isn't yours; eat an odd number of identical meals; speak in declarative questions?*

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Declared Moonsday, filed Disputed. A stranger who looks like me said he was just browsing. I allowed it.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Chandber 14 DAY 322 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Chandber 15 DAY 323 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Return the Bursar's hat.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Chandber 16 DAY 324 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Chandber 17 DAY 325 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Chandber 18 DAY 326 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 26 MAY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Chandber 19 DAY 327 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Chandber 20 DAY 328 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Internal Audit, third visit. Tam's coat now requires two auditors to lift. The audit has been extended.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Chandber 21 DAY 329 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Chandber 22 DAY 330 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The weather has disagreed with the Forecast for three weeks. The Department has published a correction to the weather. Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Chandber 23 DAY 331 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Chandber 24 DAY 332 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Chandber 25 DAY 333 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

25

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Coin, on a Moonsday. If it is one, it ends something. I have nothing to end. I have filed a small thing just in case.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Chandber 26 DAY 334 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Chandber 27 DAY 335 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Chandber 28 DAY 336 OF 392

IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Lot 14.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

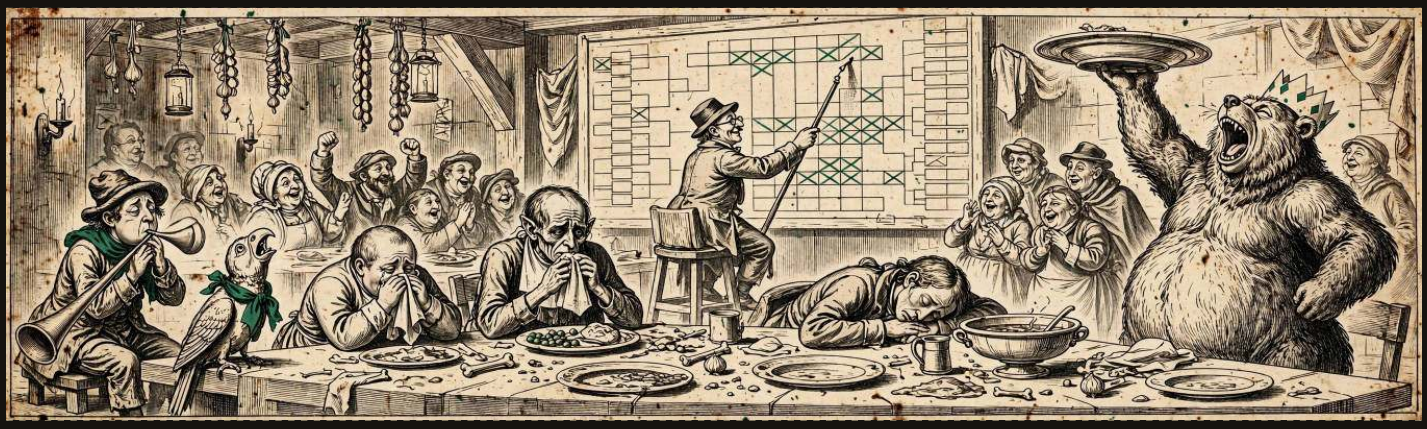
PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE ELEVENTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 337–364 OF THE YEAR

FEASTBER

Spring · The Cornic Confluence

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 THE PRICING The Pricing. Rent due. Signups open.	2 Salt is filed. Pepper is pending.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. Grace is a sauce.	4 ○ New moon. The kitchens go dark early.	5 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Taste nothing.	6 Repetition Day: Zipsdier the 1st, again.	7 Factions Tournament. Winners eat first.
8 Good day for Teeth, and for using them.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Second helpings.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. The ovens are audited.	12 The long tables are measured. Twice.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours. Come hungry.	14 Annual Bake Sale, Church of the Beast.
15 THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE The Cornic Confluence opens. Sit down.	16 Confluence, day two. Pace yourself.	17 Service, at table. The sermon is warm.	18 ● Full moon over the long table.	19 FILING DAY OF RECORD Confluence. The Loser's Bracket fills.	20 Deep City visit, one hour. Eat first.	21 Factions Tournament, at table.
22 Confluence. Leftovers achieve seniority.	23 A quiet course. Chew thoughtfully.	24 Pseudo-Religious Service. Grace, again.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The bracket narrows.	26 Confluence. Strangers become regulars.	27 Other Skin Day, at the feast.	28 The Confluence closes. Auction after.

FEAS 7

Chandber foretells what the weather won't do;
Feastber eats everything. Oldber eats you.

The Back of Feastber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. The Pricing is read aloud on the 1st: every dish, drink, and chair of the coming Confluence, priced and filed. Prices set at the Pricing are binding until the Confluence closes; haggling afterward is a different festival, held in another month. Rent is due the same morning, and the Deep City signup window opens. Feastber begins with three queues and an appetite.

3. The Pseudo-Religious Service in Feastber is held at table whenever a table can be found, and in Feastber a table can always be found. Grace is sung before the meal and filed after it. The sermon is short. The choir is fed first.

4. When the white moon is new, the kitchens go dark early, so the cooks may rest their eyes before the month brightens. A dark kitchen in Feastber is not a closure. It is a promise.

5. The Nawn Coalition patrols the market rows while the Pricing disputes are settled around them. They taste nothing. Do not offer them a sample. They are working, and their refusal is a form of mercy.

6. A Repetition Day. By order of the unicorns, today is Zipsdier the 1st again: filing season opens, briefly, inside the feast month, and everything filed today is filed in Zipsdier's hand. The Howling Rites are held in the evening regardless; a repeated day deserves a repeated noise. Good luck.

7. At the tournament, the winners eat first: the week's priority at the long table is a filed prize, entered on the seating chart in ink. Losers are seated with honor, and slightly later, which in Feastber is a measurable distance.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms. In Feastber the queue is catered. The caterers are not part of the allowance. They are part of the test.

11. Quarter moon. Every oven in the district declares its capacity and its intentions before the Confluence opens, and the declarations are audited under a half-lit sky. Ovens that decline to declare are watched, warmly.

12. The long tables are measured twice: once for length, and once for worthiness. Tables that fail the second measurement are used for the judges, as is traditional, and the judges pretend not to notice, as is also traditional.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th, and in Feastber it hears them at the end of the long table, between courses. It does not absolve. It files, and passes the salt.

14. The Annual Bake Sale is held at the Church of The Eversworn Beast: the year's great table before the great table. The parish ovens bake for a week beforehand. The tournament runs the same evening, and its players arrive powdered with flour, which is not a uniform. What the proceeds proceed to, the Church does not say. The Beast does not say either.

15. The Cornic Confluence opens: fourteen days of sanctioned eating at the long tables. Seats are filed, courses are numbered, and strangers are seated together on purpose. The Committee reminds citizens that the Confluence is not a contest, except where it is, and those places are marked.

18. The moon is full over the long table, and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting at it. This month their pamphlets are menus, printed beautifully, and they agree on nothing except dessert, on which they are unanimous and brief.

19. The Loser's Bracket fills. Eaters defeated in the Confluence's contests are not dismissed; they are bracketed, and given their own table, their own honors, and — citizens insist, and the Committee does not correct them — the better conversation.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later. Eat first. The Deep City provides nothing, and the return appetite is famous in three districts. The Howling Rites follow in the evening, at table volume.

22. By the Confluence's eighth day, leftovers achieve seniority. A dish served twice is addressed formally, may not be refused, and is seated above newer dishes regardless of merit. The Bureau calls this respect. The dishes call it nothing; they are busy.

25. Quarter moon. The bracket narrows, and the field thins with the moon. What remains at the table now is seasoned, in every sense the Bureau recognizes and one it doesn't.

27. Other Skin Day, in the middle of the Confluence. Skins are issued at the district office as usual, and today you will eat as someone else: their seat, their courses, their luck at the bracket. Return the skin by sundown, dry, with the form. Do not ask what you ate. You were delicious company.

28. The Cornic Confluence closes at sundown, and the In-Transit House auction follows the final course. Lots this month include twelve chairs, one long table (measured, worthy), and the Bracket's spare crown. The last form of the feast is a napkin, filed flat.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The moon thins toward new. A price named today stays named. The suns are already hungry.

2. Seasoning weather under a narrowing moon. What is pending today is only pepper, and patience.

3. The suns rise in agreement and sit down together. Grace lands where you are seated.

4. New moon. Dark kitchens, bright intentions. Rest your eyes; the month will need them.

5. The moon waxes a crumb's width. A patrol passes your table and your luck goes untasted.

6. Today happens in another month's clothes. The waxing moon signs twice. Eat as if filed.

7. The small moon of errands favors early winners. Your appetite arrives before you do; save it a seat.

8. Teeth weather: the moon grows, and so does your standing at the counter. Bite kindly.

9. Generous suns before noon. What is distributed today comes with a second helping of itself.

10. The suns hold a long, warm note. A second helping finds you without being asked for.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-fed. Declare your capacity honestly; the ovens are listening.

12. A growing moon measures you twice. You pass the second measurement. Sit tall.

13. Confession under a brightening moon: the Raven keeps your secrets and passes the salt.

14. Flour in the moonlight. A purchase today feeds more than the buyer.

15. The moon climbs toward full over open tables. A stranger seated beside you becomes an institution.

16. Waxing bright: pace is a form of wealth today. Your second wind is already plated.

17. The suns preach at table. The warm sermon is yours; take notes in the margins of the menu.

18. Full moon over the long table. Everything is visible, including the dessert. Agree on it.

19. The moon wanes into the Bracket. Defeat today comes with honors and the better conversation.

20. Below the city, the moon cannot follow. One hour of unobserved appetite. Come back gently.

21. Cards under a waning moon: play hungry, lose fed. The table provides both outcomes.

22. Seniority descends on old dishes and old friends. Address both formally today; it suits them.

23. A quiet course under a thinning moon. Chewing thoughtfully is a complete strategy.

24. The suns agree with grace, again. What repeats today repeats warmly.

25. Quarter moon. The field narrows; the seasoning deepens. What remains is the point.

26. A waning moon makes regulars of strangers. Your usual arrives before you order it.

27. A borrowed shape at a bright table: eat as someone else, and be kind to their reputation.

28. The last crescent sets the final course. What closes today feeds the whole next month.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. vor — pay, price — The month's first word and its whole liturgy. Say it before you sit.

2. os — teeth, bone (currency) — For the salt's defenders. Seasoning settles in hard coin here.

3. selen — sing; file; record — Grace is all three at once in Feastber. Hum before the first bite.

4. morilsil — a moonless night (coined at Pim's table) — For the dark kitchens tonight. Cooks rest their eyes in it.

5. venhal — a guard — The patrol accepts the title. Offer nothing edible with it.

6. nostel — recorded time — Today is filed under another month. Speak of it in the past tense, early.

7. harr — strike, fight — Tournament-table use only. At the feast table, it files as appetite.

8. kaelam — a human — What the cooks call the seating chart. You are on it. Be worthy.

9. vavas — a queue — At Window 2, catered. Reverence, with a tray.

10. dor — house, holding — The service's house this week has a kitchen. Bless both rooms.

11. esh — fire — The ovens' first name. Never shout it indoors; they answer.

12. sev — place; ground — Your seat's legal description. Defend it politely, with elbows.

13. morfe — a raven — For the Elder at the table's end. Confess by function, not by name.

14. eshala — steam; strong drink — The Bake Sale's weather and its whole treasury. Breathe it in.

15. hallen — a friend — For the stranger seated beside you on purpose. By dessert, it is accurate.

16. ma — many; all — For the long table at full muster. Everyone is a little of it.

17. am — I, the one singing now — Begin grace with it and the grace is yours, legally.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers' menus are full of them. Do not accept the first offer.

19. verlen — an enemy; a former love — File today's defeater under the gentler reading. The Bracket approves.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, and a keeper, and the keeper has a list.

21. witel — a Twist — What the winners are paid in, besides dinner. Spend one on dessert.

22. moraeth — nostalgia — For dishes served twice. It is a seasoning and a seniority.

23. parmor — a whisper — The quiet course runs on them. Pass one down the table.

24. sòlla — we; I as part of a whole; five — Grace said together counts five ways. The table is a whole.

25. ul — debt, obligation — What the narrowing field owes the cooks. Settle in thanks.

26. nosnar — a filed name — The regulars all have one by now. Yours is on the seating chart.

27. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for what you are wearing, even at table.

28. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — The feast's last word. Sing it fed.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

THE PRICING (the 1st).

On the first morning of Feastber, every dish, drink, and chair of the coming Confluence is priced aloud and filed, from the steps of the Church of The Eversworn Beast, in the hearing of the hungry. A price may be disputed once, in writing, before the second reading. After the second reading the prices are the prices, and the month may begin. REPETITION DAY (the 6th). A few days a year, the unicorns choose a day for you to repeat, at random, and today Feastber repeats Zipsdier the 1st: filing season opens again inside the feast month, briefly and completely, and everything filed today is filed twice, in Zipsdier's hand. The Committee's entire guidance on Repetition Days is the official blessing, printed here in full: good luck. THE ANNUAL BAKE SALE (the 14th). The Church of The Eversworn Beast holds its bake sale on the eve of the Confluence, and the whole district attends, because attendance is cheaper than the alternative, which is hearing about it. The parish ovens bake for a week. The Beast's own position on the sale is not recorded, and the Church advises citizens not to ask the building. Proceeds are filed under fellowship. THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE (the 15th–28th). For fourteen days the long tables are set and the city eats, in courses, in order, in company. It is the great eating festival of the year: seats filed, strangers seated together on purpose, contests held where the Committee has marked them. Eaters defeated in the contests enter the Loser's Bracket, which is not a dismissal but a promotion sideways — its own table, its own honors, its own spare crown, and the year's best conversation, according to everyone who has ever been seated there, which is everyone, eventually. OTHER SKIN DAY (the 27th). Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate. Feastber's falls in the middle of the Confluence, by the unicorns' arithmetic or the Committee's courage, and a citizen at the long table may therefore be anyone: eating another's courses, carrying another's luck, addressed by another's filed name. The Bureau's position is that this builds sympathy. The Bureau's other position is that it builds the file. Return the skin dry, with the form, by sundown.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Feastber is the eleventh month, the last full table of the year, when the Cornic Confluence sits for fourteen days and the city eats its stores in good order before the fog comes down for Oldber. By the outside count it is late spring, which is irrelevant. Inside the city it is the season of the long table, and the year's filed couplet gives the month its whole job description, which the month performs with both hands: Feastber eats everything. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for the Confluence's founding seating, at which — the account says — every citizen of the first filing was fed in a single sitting, and the month took the sitting's name out of respect. The street account is shorter, and hungrier: the year is fattened because Oldber is coming, and what Feastber eats, the fog cannot. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed in the margin: the name is not a description at all but an instruction, issued by the first Headmaster, and the city has been obeying it ever since, beautifully. The Committee prints all three accounts and rules on none of them. The tables, asked directly, said nothing, being set.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — THE PRICING. Effective the 1st of Feastber, prices filed at the Pricing are binding until the Confluence closes. A price changed mid-Confluence is not an adjustment; it is a new price, and a new price requires a new month. Citizens with complaints are directed to Window 2, where the complaint forms are priced at the Pricing. MANDATE REPORT — THE LOSER'S BRACKET. Defeat at the Confluence tables is recorded as an honor. Honors so recorded may not be appealed, traded, refunded, or eaten. Citizens found attempting to lose on purpose will be seated in the Bracket anyway, without the crown. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — FEASTBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: feelings of being annoyed (raised for the queue season at the long tables; the Bureau is not cruel), yawns in public (the month is long and fed), and tears shed at the Bracket's table, which are traditional and counted gently.

All allowances are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose methods are their own. The parrots attend the Confluence in an official capacity and may not be fed.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

THE LONG TABLE COMPANY — One seat at any Confluence table, subject to measurement. Chairs are counted; appetites are not. Present this coupon and your filed name. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) MOTHER BRACKET'S KITCHEN — Losers eat free on presentation of a filed defeat. Victories are also accepted, at full price, with sympathy. The crown is not redeemable. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) SALT & SENIORITY, PROVISIONS — Second helpings of anything served twice, half price, addressed formally. The dish decides whether it knows you. Decisions are final and usually kind. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · FEASTBER

Feastber

Spring (folk) · as the Index files it: The Cornic Confluence.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Pricing on the 1st. My gifts are priced. I have been told the prices of none of mine. This is correct.

The Cornic Confluence, 15–28. Read the loser's bracket. Some losers write home.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Feastber 1	The Pricing
Feastber 15–28	The Cornic Confluence

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

TWINSDAY, FEASTBER 19

Akhia, self-proclaimed. She has filed her Filing Day on three dates. The Index accepts the one on a Twinsday, for consistency.

THE WHITE MOON

● Feastber 4 new · ◑ Feastber 11 first quarter · ○ Feastber 18 full · ◐ Feastber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- Gifts, eleven, priced (see Pricing list)
- A certificate for Los (the correct one; have it checked)
- Pen, if the Pricing does not provide one
- Rat feathers, for the loser's bracket betting
- Exact change, for the 7th

FALLING DUE

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Feastber runs from Friday 9 June 2028 to Thursday 6 July 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Feastber 1 DAY 337 OF 392

THE PRICING RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

The Pricing. Received: an excellent pen, priced at one true sentence about myself. Paid. The giver has asked for a second sentence. There is no second price. I have filed the request as greed.
Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Feastber 2 DAY 338 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Gifts given: to Los, a certificate, the correct one, priced at one verse delivered without bars. He has refused to pay. He has also refused to return the certificate.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Feastber 3 DAY 339 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Feastber 4 DAY 340 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 9 JUNE 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Feastber 5 DAY 341 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Feastber 6 DAY 342 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Feastber 7 DAY 343 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Coin, on a Ghoulday. Old signatures and new rumors. The day was full.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

7

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Pricing

FEASTDAY, FEASTBER 1

In Montavera an unpriced gift is a threat. Everything has a cost, and a gift that does not name its cost has merely postponed it. On the Pricing, every gift comes with its invoice, and the price is set by the giver: one true sentence about yourself, a song sung badly in public, losing to me at cards, telling your mother you were wrong. Refusing to pay means returning the gift. Nobody has ever done that twice.

- The Invoice Tag. Gifts are wrapped, and the price is tied on outside, folded. The tag is opened first, and the gift only after the price is accepted.
- The Children's Year. Children spend the whole year guessing what their presents will cost. The best gift of the day is the one with the funniest price, and is remembered by its price, not its contents.
- No Second Price. The giver may not raise the price after payment. Asking for a second sentence is greed, and is filed as such.
- The Priceless Gift. It is the worst thing to give anyone, because it says "I want something and I will not tell you what." It has been given only twice in the city's memory, and both times the recipient moved.

At the table: an NPC has given a party member a magnificent gift and set its price as a favor, unnamed. That is a priceless gift, and everyone at the table knows what that means.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Feastber 8 DAY 344 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Feastber 9 DAY 345 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Feastber 10 DAY 346 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Feastber 11 DAY 347 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Ondine Sorrell's petition: due for review.

GD-1 ____ ED-1 ____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Feastber 12 DAY 348 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Ondine Sorrell's petition: reviewed. Declined. Diary the next review.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Feastber 13 DAY 349 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Feastber 14 DAY 350 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Lot 14 deposit. (No.)

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Feastber 15 DAY 351 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 1 OF 14

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Cornic Confluence opens. Loser's bracket first.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Feastber 16 DAY 352 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 2 OF 14

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Feastber 17 DAY 353 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 3 OF 14

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Feastber 18 DAY 354 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 4 OF 14 THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

A loser wrote home. Home wrote back. It was the winner.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Feastber 19 DAY 355 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 5 OF 14

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

Akhia, self-proclaimed. She has filed her Filing Day on three dates. The Index accepts the one on a Twinsday, for consistency.

Akhia's Filing Day, the accepted one. Do not mention the other two.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Feastber 20 DAY 356 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 6 OF 14

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Feastber 21 DAY 357 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 7 OF 14

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Cornic Confluence
FEASTBER 15–28

Read the loser's bracket. Some losers write home.

- The Loser's Letters are read aloud in the squares on the last night. The best is printed in the Chronicle.
- Home Writes Back. By custom, home answers every letter, even when home has to be invented.

At the table: a loser's letter home contains a coded message, and the winner is the only one who can read it.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Feastber 22 DAY 358 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 8 OF 14

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Good: cheered the loser's bracket. Evil: loudly, by name.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Feastber 23 DAY 359 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 9 OF 14

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Feastber 24 DAY 360 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 10 OF 14

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Feastber 25 DAY 361 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 11 OF 14

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Imelda Prosk. She has issued a standing order that I attend her meetings in person. I have attended by memo. The memo has been reprimanded.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Feastber 26 DAY 362 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 12 OF 14

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Feastber 27 DAY 363 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 13 OF 14

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Feastber 28 DAY 364 OF 392

THE CORNIC CONFLUENCE · DAY 14 OF 14 IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14 IS ALWAYS INTERESTING

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Confluence closes. Lot 14.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED



THE TWELFTH MONTH · DAYS 1–28 · DAY 365–392 OF THE YEAR

OLDBER

Late spring · The Season of the Old Ones

FORM CAL-1 · FILED FLAT

FEASTDAY	SHROUDSDAY	SUNSDAY	MOONSDAY	TWINSDAY	WHISPERSDAY	GHOULDAY
1 Rent. Deep City signups open.	2 The fog keeps office hours today.	3 Pseudo-Religious Service. All faiths filed.	4 ○ New moon. The Old Ones lean closer.	5 Other Skin Day. Return it by sundown.	6 Community Howling Rites. Fog permitting.	7 Factions Tournament. The fog referees.
8 Good day to be filed under another name.	9 Aria Distribution. Bring two forms.	10 Pseudo-Religious Service. Bring a hymn.	11 ◐ Quarter moon. Half the sky is paperwork.	12 Nawn Coalition on Patrol. Do not wave.	13 Elder Raven Confessional Hours.	14 Factions Tournament. Losers are filed.
15 Leave paperwork at the gate. Unlabeled.	16 Favorable day for screaming, quietly.	17 Pseudo-Religious Service. Fog sings too.	18 ● Full moon. The pamphleteers agree on nothing.	19 Repetition Day: today is the 28th, early.	20 Escorted Deep City visit. One hour only.	21 Tournament. Lock-in & Retreat tonight.
22 The year is nearly filed. Check your copy.	23 APPEALS ROUND · RE-RATIFICATION Appeals Round opens. Bring everything.	24 Appeals, day two. The fog testifies.	25 ◑ Quarter moon. The Old Ones withdraw.	26 Do NOT visit the nursery today.	27 Good day for Teeth.	28 THE TURNING ▲ QUARTER DAY THE TURNING. The year ends. Be filed.

OLDB 14

Chandber foretells what the weather won't do;
Feastber eats everything. Oldber eats you.
Twenty-eight days, every month but the one:
Zipsdier, eighty-four, and it's never quite done.

The Back of Oldber

Filed behind the month page, where the explanations live. Turn the plate over; the year is heavier than it looks.

WHY THE DAYS SAY WHAT THEY SAY

1. Rent is due, and the Deep City signup window opens the same morning, because the Bureau enjoys a queue with stakes. Sign early. The list fills with citizens who have never once looked down and liked it.

2. The fog in Sollen's mouth keeps the hours it pleases. If it has not arrived by nine, it is not coming, and neither is the clerk behind it.

4. When the white moon is new, the Old Ones are nearest, which in Oldber means the fog leans. Do not lean back. It is not affection. It is appraisal.

5. Other Skin Day. You will be issued a skin at the district office, sized by estimate, and you will wear it with gratitude. Return it by sundown, dry, with the form. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention.

6. The Howling Rites are held outdoors in all weathers. In Oldber the fog howls back, on pitch, which the choirmaster insists is an honor and the neighbors describe differently.

8. Once a year the Index permits a citizen to be filed under another name for one day, for rest. Choose a name with no enemies. The paperwork follows you home regardless.

9. The Aria Distribution Allowance is paid at Window 2. Bring two forms: one for the Aria, one for having brought only one form last time.

12. The Nawn Coalition patrols Oldber on foot, in silence, looking at everything with no eyes. Do not wave. They are working. If one stops outside your house, it is not about you, and the Bureau will confirm this in writing, eventually.

13. The Elder Raven hears confessions on the 13th. It does not absolve. It files. Citizens report sleeping better anyway, which the Raven accepts as tribute.

16. Screaming is favorable today provided it is done quietly, indoors, into the approved receptacle. The fog carries sound in Oldber and returns it to the wrong address.

18. The moon is full and the pamphleteers of Sollen's Mouth hold their monthly meeting, at which they agree on nothing, in writing, beautifully. Their minutes are the fog's favorite literature.

19. A Repetition Day. By order of the unicorns, today is the 28th again, early: the Turning arrives ahead of itself so citizens may rehearse. What you file today is filed twice. Good luck.

20. The escorted visit to the Deep City departs at the hour on your ticket and returns one hour later, whatever it felt like. The escort does not answer questions. The escort is the answer.

21. The Junior High Lock-in & Retreat is held tonight. The Retreat guarantees that 17 of every 19 children will be returned, and 14 of them safely. The other parents have been notified. The tournament runs concurrently; the children are the trophy ceremony.

23. The Appeals Round opens. Bring your file, your grievance, and your second grievance, the true one. Re-Ratification concludes tomorrow. Decisions are final, retroactively.

26. Do not visit the nursery today. The Bureau does not elaborate. The Bureau has never elaborated. The one clerk who asked was filed under N.

27. A good day for Teeth: exchanges are favorable, the rate is kind, and the collectors make house calls. Settle what you owe while settling is a choice.

28. The Turning. At midnight the year ends and the year begins, and the last form of the year is accepted, or not. Be filed. What is unfiled is late, and what is late is carried, gently, into the new year, where it will be someone else's seniority.

THE MOON AND THE SUNS, DAILY

1. The white moon is a closed door: file early, knock once. The suns keep their own counsel.

2. Fog in the moon's house. What you cannot see today is also filing you.

3. The suns rise in agreement, which unsettles them. Expect a stranger's kindness, itemized.

4. New moon. Begin nothing loudly. The Old Ones are reading over your shoulder.

5. A borrowed shape walks well for you. Return what you borrow before it fits.

6. The moon waxes; so does the noise. Join it or be filed under it.

7. Full attention from the small moon of errands: a game goes your way, then is appealed.

8. Someone else's name opens a door for you. Walk through as if you live there.

9. The suns are generous before noon. Ask early; the light keeps office hours.

10. A hymn you half-remember finishes itself in your mouth. Let it.

11. Quarter moon: half-lit, half-filed. Finish the half you can see.

12. Watched, kindly. The moon's white eye is on the patrol routes tonight.

13. Confess upward. The moon is nearly full and keeps excellent secrets in triplicate.

14. A contest favors the patient. Lose beautifully; it is also recorded.

15. The fog thins at the gate. Offerings are received without comment, which is thanks.

16. Your voice carries farther than intended. Aim it at something deserving.

17. The suns hold a long note today. Stand under it a moment. It helps, obscurely.

18. Full moon. Everything is visible, including you. The pamphleteers take notes.

19. Today happens twice. Spend the first pass learning; the second is the one they keep.

20. Below the city, the moon cannot follow. One hour of unobserved luck. Use it gently.

21. The moon wanes over locked doors. Count who returns; toast them; say nothing of arithmetic.

22. A nearly finished year leans on you. Carry it kindly; it carried you.

23. Appeals weather: the moon reopens closed things. Bring witnesses and sandwiches.

24. The verdict moon. What is ratified today was decided long ago, by you, in fog.

25. Quarter moon. The Old Ones withdraw a pace. Your shadow is your own again.

26. The moon says nothing about the nursery. Neither do you. This is the whole instruction.

27. Bright teeth in a dark month: bargains shine. Read the collector's smile twice.

28. The year's last moon sets the table for the first. Be filed, be found, begin.

A WORD A DAY, AGAINST UNICORNS

1. Shàra — good day; the filed greeting — Open with it. The fog respects form.

2. ilven — window — Name the one you are standing at. It helps the clerk pretend.

3. hallen — a friend — For the one who holds your place in the queue of the service.

4. thurmor — an Old One — Never pluralize carelessly in Oldber. They are listening this month.

5. rin — the unnamed; a stranger — Today's correct address for what you are wearing.

6. parfe — a parrot — The wooden kind counts; the feathered kind repeats. Know which is which.

7. nosselen — a clerk — Offer it as a title, never a description. Clerks are sensitive in season.

8. nosnar — a filed name — Yours, today, if you took the day under another. Pronounce it steadily.

9. vavas — a queue — Say it with reverence at Window 2. The queue is a liturgy.

10. dorne — a guest — For whoever the fog sends to your table at the service supper.

11. sev — place; ground — Useful for indicating exactly where you were standing. Precisely.

12. morfe — a raven — Greet the Elder's colleagues by function, not by name. Safer.

13. hallen — a friend — Again: confession is easier in good company.

14. verlen — an enemy; a former love — File today's opponent under the gentler reading. It confuses them.

15. dor — house, holding — For the gate offering: name the house that receives it.

16. am — I, the one singing now — Begin a scream with it and the scream is yours, legally.

17. vas — go, walk — The service ends with it, sung low. Follow the sound out.

18. maran — word; a use-name — The pamphleteers will trade you one. Do not accept the first offer.

19. nes — no — For the second filing of today. Some things are refused twice, on principle.

20. kaelven — the gate — The Deep City has one, and it has a keeper, and the keeper has a list.

21. neselen — a child — Count them out loud tonight, coming and going. The Retreat appreciates it.

22. am — I — Again, nearer the end of the year: know who is singing.

23. thil — yes — The Appeals word. Say it only when the whole file is in your hands.

24. thurselen — an elder — Address the fog's witnesses with it. Courtesy is a kind of lamp.

25. thurmor — an Old One — Once more, as they withdraw: gratitude, filed quietly.

26. nes — no — The whole vocabulary required at the nursery gate today.

27. kaelam — a human — What the collectors call you, when they are being formal.

28. Vas shàra — go well; the filed farewell — The year's last word, and the new year's first. Sing both halves.

THE MONTH'S SPECIAL DAYS

OTHER SKIN DAY (the 5th).

Once a month the district office issues skins, sized by estimate, to any citizen who applies in person and does not ask where they come from. You will be someone else until sundown: their errands, their weather, their luck at the windows. The Bureau's position is that this builds sympathy. The Bureau's other position is that it builds the file. Return the skin dry, with the form, by sundown. What you learn in it is yours to keep and never mention. REPETITION DAY (the 19th). A few days a year, the unicorns choose a day for you to repeat, at random, and today Oldber repeats its own last day: the Turning, early. Everything filed today is filed twice. Everything spent is spent twice, except patience. The Committee's entire guidance on Repetition Days is the official blessing, printed here in full: good luck. THE APPEALS ROUND (the 23rd–24th). For two days the Re-Ratification sits, and every filing of the year may be appealed once, in person, with the second grievance attached. The fog testifies on the second day and is considered a hostile witness for all parties, including the fog. THE TURNING (the 28th). The year ends at midnight. The last form of the year is accepted at Window 4, or not, and the closing plate of this book is that window, in snow, with one citizen in the queue. Citizens are reminded that the streets do not flip at sundown on the Turning. It is the year's one courtesy, and the city is proud of it.

THE MONTH, AS FILED

Oldber is the twelfth month, late spring by the outside count, though inside the city it is simply the season of the Old Ones, when the fog comes down from Sollen's mouth and the year's paperwork is given its last chance to become true. The Office's account is that Oldber was always the last month: the year is a file, and a file ends where its oldest contents surface. The street's account is shorter. The street says the year ends in Oldber because that is where it is eaten. Why the month bears this name is, officially, DECLINED; the Bureau's filed line stands and this page does not overturn it. What may be told are the accounts. The Office account: the month is named for its keepers, the Old Ones, whose attention is nearest when the moon is new, and whose festival this is, though they have never attended. The disputed account, filed by the pamphleteers and marked Disputed in the margin: the month is named for the citizens themselves, who are all, by the 365th day, a little older than the year intended. The Committee prints both accounts and rules on neither. The fog, asked directly, filed the question under weather.

MANDATE REPORTS

MANDATE REPORT — LEFT STEPS. Effective the 1st of Oldber, the daily allowance of left steps is revised downward by three, to account for the fog. The ravens are counting. Citizens who have banked left steps against the Turning are reminded that banked steps do not carry into the new year. They never have. Spend them beautifully. MANDATE REPORT — STREETS. In Oldber, the street along Sollen's Mouth may not be crossed at all. Citizens may look at it, and may throw paper airplanes into it, wishing they could fly across on one of them. The Bureau permits the airplanes. The Bureau has always permitted the airplanes. Retrieved airplanes are filed as petitions and answered in order. STANDING REMINDER. Do not deal in rat feather. Those who do will be immediately taken before the Council of 9. This notice is printed monthly at the Council's request and the Committee's expense, and the Committee would like it noted that they print it beautifully. ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE — OLDBER EMPHASIS. This month's watched allowances: tears shed (raised by two for the season; the Old Ones' attention makes citizens tender, and the Bureau is not cruel), yawns in public, and feelings of being annoyed at fog. All are tracked by ravens and wooden parrots, whose tallies are final and whose methods are their own.

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S PATRONS

MARROW & SONS, UNDERTAKERS OF SMALL ERRORS — One re-filing forgiven, per citizen, per year. Present this coupon and the error. Errors must be small. Marrow & Sons decide. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) THE GATE LANTERN COMPANY — One free wick with every lantern, fog season only. Lanterns inspected free on Moonsdays. The fog is not an excuse we accept; it is an excuse we sell. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.) AUNT SELLA'S PAPER GOODS, WINDOW 2 ARCADE — Buy two forms, the third is forgiven. Forgiven forms are stamped FORGIVEN and are legal tender at all windows except Window 4 after midnight on the Turning, when nothing is tender but the truth. (Patron of the Calendar Committee.)

MONTH PAGE · FORM CAL-1 · OLDBER

Oldber

Late spring (folk) · as the Index files it: The Season of the Old Ones.

THE HEADMASTER'S NOTES FOR THE MONTH

The Season of the Old Ones. Sightings in Sollen's Mouth. ATOO is busy. I have offered to help. The offer was received.

Turning on the 28th, at midnight. One regret, filed first, then burned. Choose it early. The good ones go.

OBSERVED THIS MONTH

Oldber 23–24	Appeals Round · Re-Ratification
Oldber 28	The Turning
Oldber 28	▲ Quarter Day

The Season of the Old Ones · all month

FILING DAYS OF RECORD

None of record this month.

THE WHITE MOON

● Oldber 4 new · ◑ Oldber 11 first quarter · ○ Oldber 18 full · ◐ Oldber 25 last quarter

KEPT THIS MONTH

TO GET

- A regret, for the Turning (choose early)
- Matches, permitted
- Fog lamp
- Teeth for the Bone Bank (the agreement renews itself)
- Exact change, for the 14th
- New CAL-1, Year 6

FALLING DUE

· Oldber 28, midnight · the Turning · one regret, filed first

· Zipsdier 84 next year · already closer than it looks

· Rent · the 1st

· Debts · every Feastday

BLACK MOON · NOT KEPT

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

The black moon keeps nothing. Do not ask it to keep anything for you.

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE

Oldber runs from Friday 7 July 2028 to Thursday 3 August 2028, outside.

NOTES

FEASTDAY Oldber 1 DAY 365 OF 392

RENT

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Oldber 2 DAY 366 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Oldber 3 DAY 367 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Oldber 4 DAY 368 OF 392 ● WHITE MOON · NEW

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Fog in Sollen's Mouth. The fog is not empty. It has been filed as occupied.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 7 JULY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Oldber 5 DAY 369 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Oldber 6 DAY 370 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

ATOO, by paper. They have asked me not to send paper.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Oldber 7 DAY 371 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Oldber 8 DAY 372 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

Exact change.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Oldber 9 DAY 373 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Oldber 10 DAY 374 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Irresolutions. Draft them. Things I will not do in Year 6: sixteen, so far.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Oldber 11 DAY 375 OF 392 ◑ WHITE MOON · FIRST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 14 JULY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Oldber 12 DAY 376 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Oldber 13 DAY 377 OF 392

13TH · ⊥ DISPUTED STANDING ON FILE · NOT DECLARED

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Hat.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Oldber 14 DAY 378 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Coin, on a Ghoulday. The farmer's last of the year. He has been right as often as one would expect. I have filed his accuracy under Weather.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____



14

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Oldber 15 DAY 379 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Oldber 16 DAY 380 OF 392

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Oldber 17 DAY 381 OF 392

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Oldber 18 DAY 382 OF 392 ○ WHITE MOON · FULL

THE PAMPHLETEERS OF SOLLEN'S MOUTH MEET AND AGREE ON NOTHING

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

Pamphleteers. Last full moon of Year 5.

GD-1 ED-1 □ FILED □ PENDING □ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 21 JULY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Oldber 19 DAY 383 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Oldber 20 DAY 384 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

Good: let the fog pass. Evil: let it.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Oldber 21 DAY 385 OF 392

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

Irresolutions filed: twenty-two. The Bureau reports a one-hundred-percent completion rate. I expect to contribute.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

FEASTDAY Oldber 22 DAY 386 OF 392

The Opening · debts due · the Church's bake sale · Merriment Mandates

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SHROUDSDAY Oldber 23 DAY 387 OF 392

APPEALS ROUND OF EXCELLENT EXCUSES

The Closed Window · Window 4 closed · noticed on Sunsday

Appeals Round of Excellent Excuses. Last year's losers appeal. Attend by paper. My excuse from Week 4 is on the docket. It has been upheld on appeal.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

SUNSDAY Oldber 24 DAY 388 OF 392

RE-RATIFICATION

The Second Look · Trash Day · the Temple opens early · the Arkademia disputation

Re-ratification. Every deadline falling today is excused again. I have none left to move. I have moved one anyway, from Year 6.

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

MOONSDAY Oldber 25 DAY 389 OF 392 ◐ WHITE MOON · LAST QUARTER

The Close at sundown · APOK-1 by sundown · the Sneaker Reliquary buyback, Dawn-ish · Moonsday Service at night

GD-1 ED-1 ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

CORRESPONDENTS ELSEWHERE THIS FEASTDAY, OUTSIDE: FRIDAY 28 JULY 2028. COUNT ALONG THE ROW.

TWINSDAY Oldber 26 DAY 390 OF 392

The Duplicate · agreements filed twice · the Laundromat Cafe pours the cup

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

WHISPERSDAY Oldber 27 DAY 391 OF 392

The Overheard · Sollen's Office Hours: one question, one riddle

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

GHOULDAY Oldber 28 DAY 392 OF 392

THE TURNING · AT MIDNIGHT ▲ QUARTER DAY IN-TRANSIT HOUSE AUCTION · LOT 14

The Circle · tea below · the Under-Market · the soil court sits

The Turning. Every file gains a page. One regret, burned in the square. Mine was filed first. It burned well. The Annual Return rite was completed and witnessed. The city held its breath in triplicate. I have filed the breath.

GD-1 _____ ED-1 _____ ☐ FILED ☐ PENDING ☐ DISPUTED FILED

OBSERVED THIS WEEK

The Appeals Round

OLDBER 23–24

At the end of the year, the year's losing excuses may appeal. On the 23rd the appeals are heard. On the 24th any excuse upheld on appeal is ratified, and every deadline falling on that day is excused a second time. The Bureau regards two excused days a year as the minimum consistent with public order.

- Appeals in Person. Excuses are re-argued by their authors, with new evidence, which is almost always fresh.
- The Upheld. An excuse upheld on appeal is painted on a board and hung outside its author's door until Hendiber.
- Re-Ratification is quieter than Ratification Day. It is a Sunsday, and nobody answers on Sunsday, so most deadlines excuse themselves.

At the table: a losing excuse from Hendiber, appealed now, would expose who really missed the deadline.

The Turning of the Year

GHOULDAY, OLDBER 28, AT MIDNIGHT

Every file gains a page. Citizens burn one regret in the square, filed first. At the turning of Oldber into Hendiber, each citizen files the Annual Return, and the city holds its breath in triplicate.

- Irresolutions. As the regret burns, each citizen files a list of things they officially will not do next year. The Bureau proudly reports a completion rate of one hundred percent.
- The Count Up. The last ten seconds of the year are counted upward, from one. The Bureau does not count down to anything it has not approved.
- The Held Breath. At the stroke the whole city holds its breath, in triplicate: once for the year filed, once for the year coming, and once for the copy.
- The First Page. At the first minute of Hendiber every citizen writes one line on the page their file has just gained. Most write their name. Some write a regret they kept back from the fire.

At the table: someone filed a regret this year that was not theirs to burn.

PENDING THIS WEEK

DEADLINE LEDGER

TODAY _____ DEADLINE _____ DAYS LEFT ____

Deeds pre-logged for the week. Form G-2 not required.

WEEK COMPLETE · NOTHING AMENDED

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

The Turning

Ghoulday, Oldber 28, at midnight, into Feastday, Hendiber 1.

Every file gains a page. Citizens burn one regret in the square, filed first. At the turning of Oldber into Hendiber, each citizen files the Annual Return, and the city holds its breath in triplicate: once for the year filed, once for the year coming, and once for the copy.

As the regret burns, each citizen files a list of things they officially will not do next year. The Bureau proudly reports a completion rate of one hundred percent. The last ten seconds of the year are counted upward, from one. The Bureau does not count down to anything it has not approved.

At the first minute of Hendiber every citizen writes one line on the page their file has just gained. Most write their name. Some write a regret they kept back from the fire.

ONE REGRET · FILED FIRST

To be burned in the square. Keep no copy.

IRRESOLUTIONS · YEAR 6

Things I officially will not do:

FORM AR-1 · ANNUAL RETURN DUE: ZIPSDIER 84, MIDNIGHT

The closest thing Montavera has to a birthday party, a confession and a performance review, held at once, at a counter.

1. DECLARED — one thing gained this year

2. OWED — one thing owed, to anyone

3. WITNESSED — who saw what you'd prefer unfiled

The Witnessed person now exists, if they did not before, and now knows they were named.

☐ FILED CLEAN ☐ ANNOTATED ☐ RETURNED ☐ LATE

The rite and the deadline. The Return is due at the Zipsdier Close; the rite is kept at the Turning. A deadline and a rite are different instruments. The city keeps both.

The city held its breath in triplicate. I have filed the breath.

THE DEADLINE LEDGER · THE HEADMASTER'S

The Deadline Ledger

Pre-filled for Year 5. Read it aloud: the next date that matters, and the days remaining.

TODAY	DEADLINE	DAYS LEFT	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT MOVES IT	OTHER COPY? HOLDER
HEND. 1	ZIPS. 84	**139**	*The Annual Return falls due*	*Nothing. The Close does not move*	—
HEND. 1	HEND. 16	**15**	*Ondine Sorrell's petition reviewed*	*Nothing; it is declined on schedule*	—
HEND. 8	HEND. 22	**14**	*Ratification Day: today's deadlines excused*	*Moving three deadlines to it*	—
SUNM. 1	SUNM. 20	**19**	*Internal Audit, preliminary*	*Tam's coat*	*Tam, in the coat*
SUNM. 22	ZIPS. 84	**90**	*Form 9-B from every unregistered musician*	*Linesong; a good song*	—
ZIPS. 1	ZIPS. 3	**2**	*The forms run out*	*Ordering on the 2nd*	*the window*
ZIPS. 29	ZIPS. 42	**13**	*Quarter Day: history revised*	*Reading the old one first*	*the Printing Company*
ZIPS. 57	ZIPS. 74	**17**	*Form H-8: Dregg*	*Nothing; he tips well*	—
ZIPS. 57	ZIPS. 81	**24**	*Closed Session: the year's filings ratified*	*Bribes cannot buy the agenda*	—

TODAY	DEADLINE	DAYS LEFT	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT MOVES IT	OTHER COPY? HOLDER
ZIPS. 57	ZIPS. 84	**27**	*The Close, midnight: whatever is unfiled is late*	*Nothing*	—
MOUR. 1	MOUR. 4	**3**	*The rolls are read; the grief invoice arrives*	*Budgeting at the standard rate*	*the Council*
GLOO. 1	GLOO. 22	**21**	*The Headmaster's Day Off*	*Nothing; it is a coincidence*	—
SHRO. 1	SHRO. 27	**26**	*Renew the lease*	*Provisional Approval does not cover leases*	*the Oscu Estate*
SHRO. 1	SHRO. 28	**27**	*Lease Night: unrenewed leases end*	*Renewal before the 27th*	*the Oscu Estate*
CHAN. 1	CHAN. 20	**19**	*Internal Audit, third visit*	*The coat, again*	*Tam*
OLDB. 1	OLDB. 28	**27**	*The Turning: one regret, filed first*	*Choosing early*	—

All deadlines above are in order. Those that are not will be amended, and the amendment will be in order.

THE DEADLINE LEDGER

Photocopy Freely

The city already has.

TODAY	DEADLINE	DAYS LEFT	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT MOVES IT	OTHER COPY? HOLDER

TODAY	DEADLINE	DAYS LEFT	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT MOVES IT	OTHER COPY? HOLDER

THE AGE

The Disputed Interval

Why this copy is dated twice.

An Age is a volume. When it is full, another is opened. The Ages measure the world's time; the iterations measure the city's. They do not touch, and the Index asks that you never let them. Recent volumes closed in nine years and in twenty-two; loud years fill them faster. The 55th closed quickly. The city was founded in it, and a founding is loud.

CONFIRMED We are in the 56th Age. CONFIRMED Several offices are in the 55th. DECLINED Who keeps the volume, and what reads it.

By the Index's count this is Year 5 of the 56th Age. By the count of offices that have not opened the new volume, it is Year 18 of the 55th. Both are correct in the offices that keep them. This copy is therefore issued as THE FIFTY-SIX, and, in offices keeping the 55th, as THE FIFTY-FIVE.

THE 55TH	ON THE SEAM	THE 56TH
The Oscu Estate	The Index — declines	The Chronicle
The Yesterday Ward	Strategic Misfortune — both	The Council
The Syndicate (night)	The Church — neither	False Identities (day)
	The Bone Bank — either	

Off the page: the Tomorrow Wards, which keep the 57th; the Apokalypse, which keeps "the last one."

Every document dated in one Age has an Other Copy in the other. A double-dated document may be challenged at an office keeping the other Age, at three seals.

Both. It's always both.

LOCAL TIME

Where It Is Late

A deadline is met or missed by the time kept where the document is filed.

The Citadel	Council time, classified. Deadlines are announced after they pass.
Deep City	None. Nothing filed here is late; nothing is on time. Overdue forms hide here. So do people.
The Yesterday Ward	A day behind. Filed here on its deadline, a form counts as filed the day before, and so were you.
The Tomorrow Wards	A day ahead. Pre-log deeds here without Form G-2.
The Streets	Two clocks, flipped at sundown. Day papers and night papers do not recognize each other.
The Apokalypse	Any date painted on a document is legally a decoration.

THE MOONS

The white moon is up, which means nothing. The black moon is also up, which means even less. The white moon keeps the almanac. The black moon keeps nothing.

WEATHER

Forecasts are advisory. The weather disagrees. In winter, rain is snow. In Oldber there is always fog, and the fog is not empty.

WHEN THE CALENDAR GOES WRONG

Lost the Date

The city's own remedy: amend, never correct.

Lost the date	It is the date on the last document anyone filed. Advance to the next Feastday.
Forgot the deeds	They were standing deeds. No third deeds are owed.
Forgot the coin	The coin means exact change. Carry some tomorrow.
Contradicted yourself	You have made a discrepancy. Somebody holds the Other Copy.
Ignored the calendar	Rent will fall due once. Then ask what day it is.

AN AMENDMENT, FOR REFERENCE

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GHOULDAY, OLDBER 7
AMENDED: the foregoing Ghoulday was a
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The amendment is written beneath the original, in red. The original remains true for anyone who read it first.

Lost the date? So has the date.

NOTES

Notes. Anything written here is filed. Write accordingly.

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

CONCORDANCE · THE NEXT COPY

Year 6

Of the 56th Age. Year 19 of the 55th, where it is kept.

Year 6 opens on Feastday, Hendiber 1, which is Friday 4 August 2028, outside. Every month opens on a Feastday. Every Feastday is a Friday.

MONTH	ITS 1ST, OUTSIDE
Hendiber	Friday 4 August 2028
Sunmanber	Friday 1 September 2028
Zipsdier	Friday 29 September 2028
Mourndier	Friday 22 December 2028
Gloomber	Friday 19 January 2029
Teadber	Friday 16 February 2029
Quillder	Friday 16 March 2029
Frostder	Friday 13 April 2029
Shroudber	Friday 11 May 2029
Chandber	Friday 8 June 2029
Feastber	Friday 6 July 2029
Oldber	Friday 3 August 2029

RENEWAL NOTICE · FORM CAL-1

The Year 6 copy of this calendar will be available from the usual window. The usual window is closed on Shroudsday. Citizens are advised to collect their copy before the year begins, and reminded that the year begins whether or not they have collected it.



Whatever is unfiled is late.

COLOPHON

THE FIFTY-SIX

Form CAL-1, Personal Copy · Year 5 of the 56th Age

From *The Black Index of Montavera*, by Sebastian Aguilar.

Set in IM Fell English and Courier Prime, after the Dateline. The Headmaster's hand is set in Caveat, in scarf-green; the Soul Farmer's print in Old Standard. Black, bone, scarf-green, and red for festivals and amendments.

Every outside date in this copy was computed from the ruled anchor and verified against every day from 1900 to 2099. The weekdays are locked. The Index has checked.

The plates are pending. The engraver is pending.

The calendar is in order. It always has been.
Where it is not, it has been amended,
and the amendment is in order.

Yours in disservice,

— The Headmaster

Notices Paid For by the Patrons of the Calendar Committee

THE SONGS BENEATH

A novel. The First Book of *The Unsung*.

A bedside promise to a dying father. A journey no one should make. A voice in the dark, older than the mountain.

Filed under: novels that will keep you up past the Filing. Available wherever books are sold to the living. The dead may apply at Window 4.

By Sebastian Aguilar. The Headmaster's other hand.

THE BLACK INDEX OF MONTAVERA — BOOKS ONE AND TWO

The city, filed. Its factions, its offices, its hungers, its forms.

Everything in the present calendar is a footnote to these volumes, and the volumes are large enough to footnote back.

A game by The Headmaster. Play it at your table. Survive it at your table.

MÀRANVEN — THE TONGUE AND THE DOOR

Book Three of the Black Index. The language of the city that sings, taught properly: its tones, its doors, its true names.

Warning: citizens who complete this book will be understood by unicorns. The Committee accepts no responsibility for being understood.

BROWN WOOL SWEATERS

One colour. Every size. No exceptions, no seasons, no apologies.

Knitted thick against the fog, the gloom, the longest night, and the general attention of the Old Ones. A brown wool sweater has never once been returned to us by a dissatisfied customer. The customers who did not return are not discussed.

HALLEN & SONS, WOOLLEN GOODS, THE ARCADE BY WINDOW 2. Patron of the Calendar Committee since before the Committee. Brown. Wool. Sweater. You already know if you need one.

Ùnru thurven, ùnru selen-dor ·

kaelven am fileth: nes vas.

Kael am fileth: nes vas.

Morfe nosnar sòlla sev; parfe nosnar sòlla sev.

Nar ta am thur-fileth. Rin ta fileth.

Thursev am: vas, thil-vas, alahal am nes.

Selen am ùnru fileth, selen-verthil:

nes vas kaelven. Nes vas kael.

Am vèr · nes. Am fileth.