# INDD AutoFlow_Comics utility

The BLOX Total CMS AutoFlow_Comics utility works with TCMS validly named documents to fetch and place the appropriate comic strip for the targeted graphics frame as set up in the comics page snippet.

Once the snippet is created correctly, and placed on a TCMS page, run the utility. The script will search a specific folder named "autoflow" in the tcms_purged/domain_local/ directory. At the end of the script run, a report will open that records what the utility was looking for and if it was found. The first time the utility is used it will create the "comics" folder in the path of the active document.

As the "autoflow" drop folder is in tcms_purged, it will be subject to the daily purge cycle that removes files that have not been modified in x days. In theory, all downloaded comics can be stored in the "comics" folder without additional intervention/handling.

The utility does not search sub-folders as a default, however, the script label can be modified to include a sub-folder path.
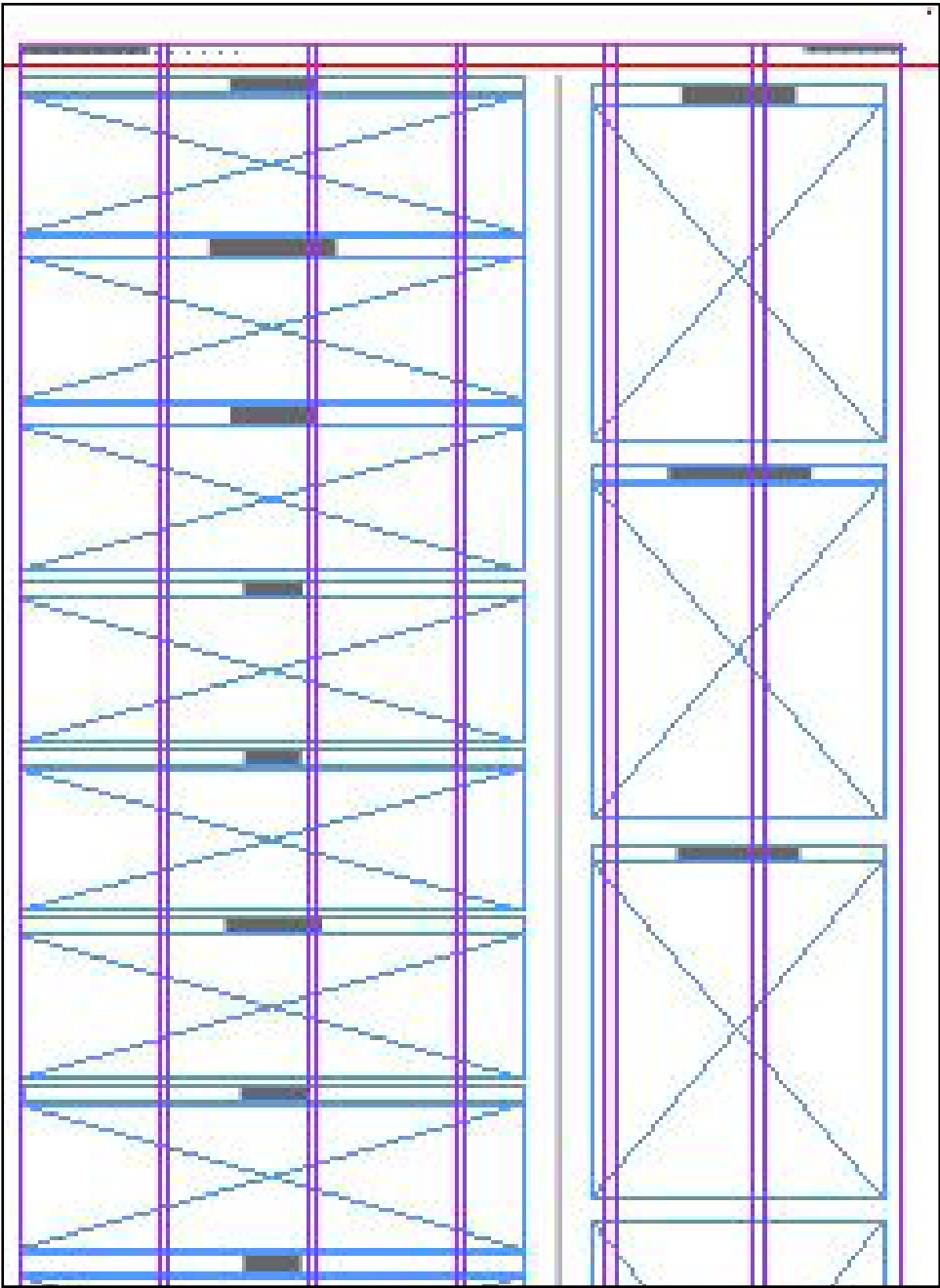

```
ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/fk170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/fk170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/20170423pzjud-a.pdf
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/20170423pzjud-a.pdf

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/tas170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/tas170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/DET20170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/DET20170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/FCT20170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/FCT20170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/pb170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/pb170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/ga170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/ga170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/BBT20170423.tif
        Found/VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/BBT20170423.tif

ooking for /VIPaddress/tcms/tcms_purged/comics/bnl170423.tif
```
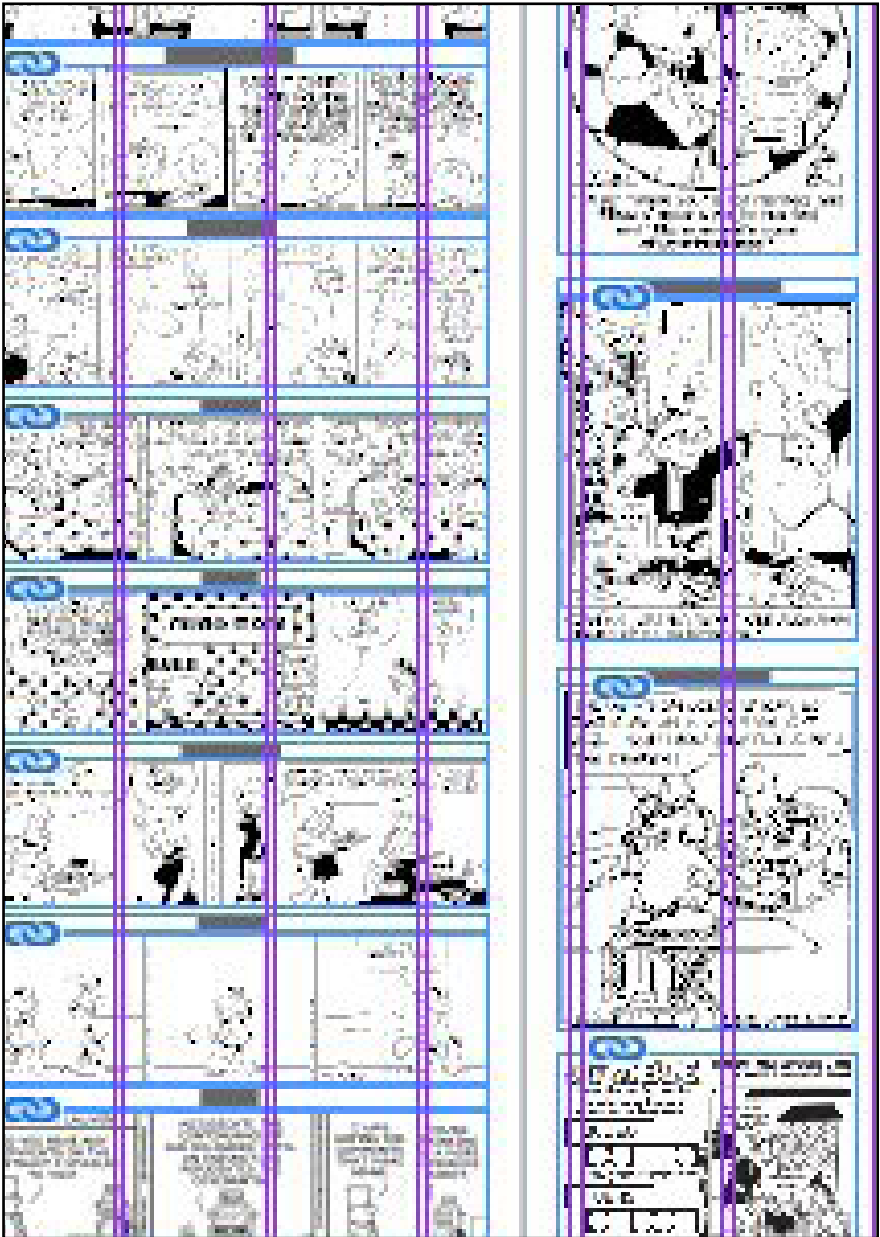
For testing/development, if the page is not a validly named TCMS document, a ui will launch to set the date for the comics to flow.

Establish Publication Date for document

Publication Year 2017

PUblication Month 04

PUblication Date 23

OK

Cancel

Sample Comic Script Labels:

Argyle Sweater	tas_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Grand	gr_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Arlo	aj_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Grimm	MGT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif
Baby Blues	BAT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif	Herb	hrb_MM__DD__YY_dUSCRzoomUSCRs.tif
Baldo	ba_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Herman	hm_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Beetle Baily	BBT_YYYY_MM_DDa_.tif	Mallard	MFT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif
Blondie	BLT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif	Peanuts	pt_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Born Loser	bnl_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Pearls Before Swine	pb_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Dennis The Menace	DET_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif	Pickles	pkl_YY_MM_DD_d.tif
Dilbert	dt_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Real	rl_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Family Circus	FCT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif	Sally	SFT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif
For Better or Worse	fb_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Word Jumble	YYYY_MM_DD_pzjud-a.pdf
Frank & Ernest	fk_YY_MM_DD_.tif	WUMO	wm_YY_MM_DD_.tif
Garfield	ga_YY_MM_DD_.tif	Zits	ZTT_YYYY_MM_DD_.tif

Snippet set up

INDD   Comics Flow utility reads the script label of the graphics frame to construct a filename of the expected graphic to place in the frame. That filename is combined with the static folder path (tcms_purged/comics based on the location of the page).


The script labels can be set manually.
In the Adobe InDesign Window menu (not the BLOX Total CMS menu) go to and launch Utilities>Script Label panel.

For most - if not all - comic strips, there is a standard naming convention (nc) from the supplier and the nc includes the run-date of that particular strip -

Example: The Born Loser strip for 02/01/2017 filename is bnl170201.tif (the extension may vary).

For the Script Label for the particular strip, you'll annotate the dates for translation, separated by an underscore: bnl_YY_MM_DD_.tif. If the strip's nc includes a "_", replace that with "USCR" to preserve. Example:
Herb nc = hrb020117d_zoom_s.tif would be hrb_MM__DD__YY_dUSCR zoomUSCRs.tif
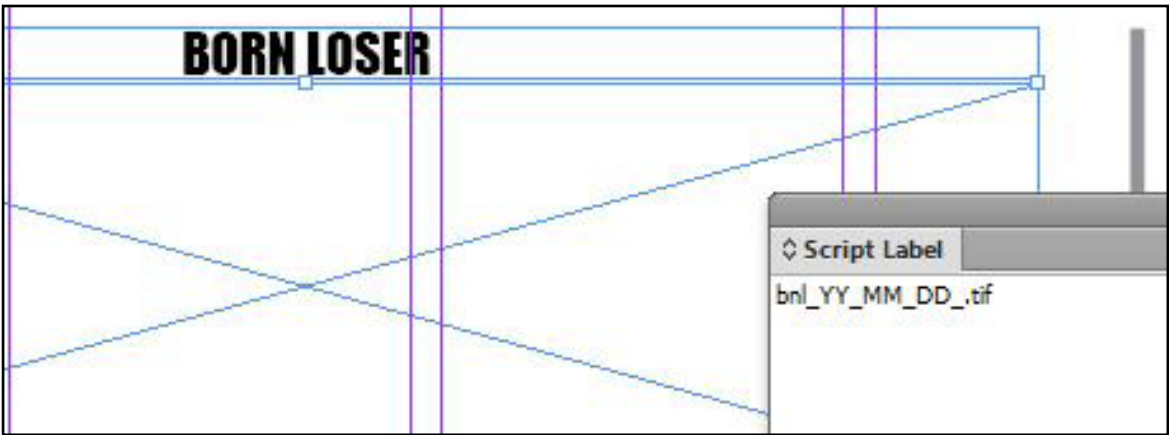

Select the graphics frame for the strip with the selection tool (black tool) , and in the Script Label ui, type in the string
(such as bnl_YY_MM_DD_.tif)

The labels are case sensitive. Once the label is set, click to another graphics frame and add that frame's label
Repeat for the rest of the frames in the layout.

If you need to store graphic files in a sub-folder in tcms_purged/comics, modify the script label accordingly:
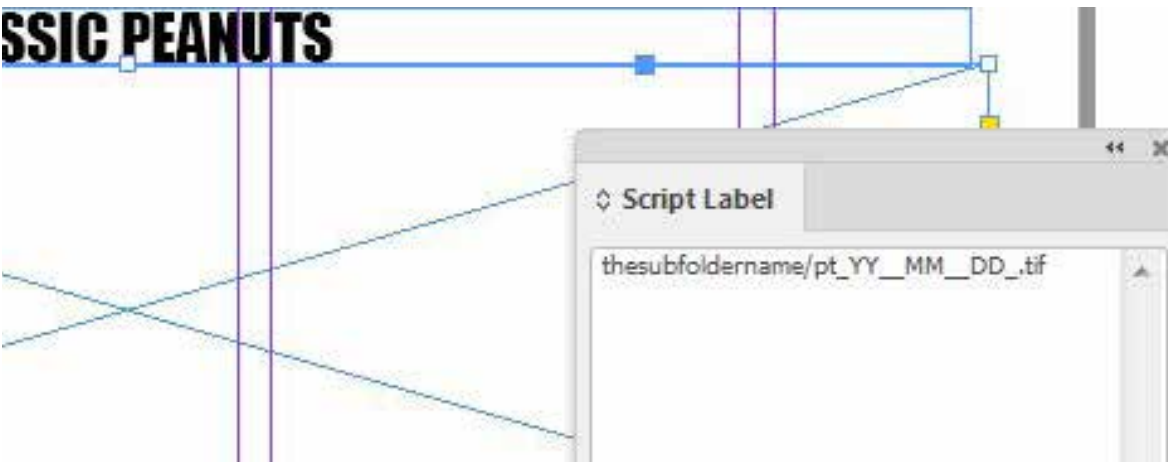
For papers that do not publish 7 days a week and have publishing days where it is necessary to run the preceding day(s) comics, the script label should be modified to account for the offset in days.

Since the INDD   Flow Comics utility uses the publication date of the BLOX Total CMS document, the prefix of "SUB1" (will modify the expected filename by one day.
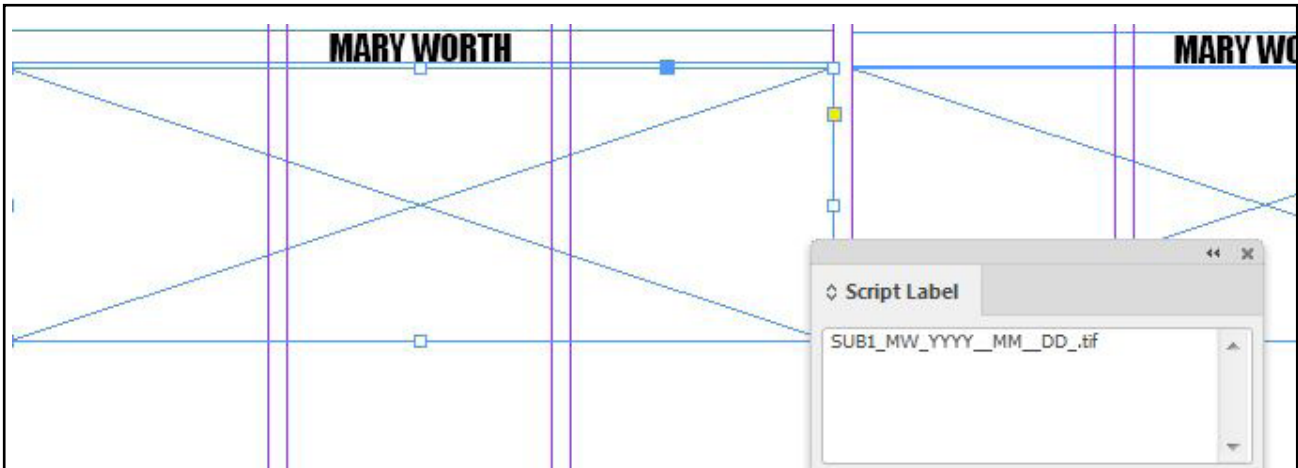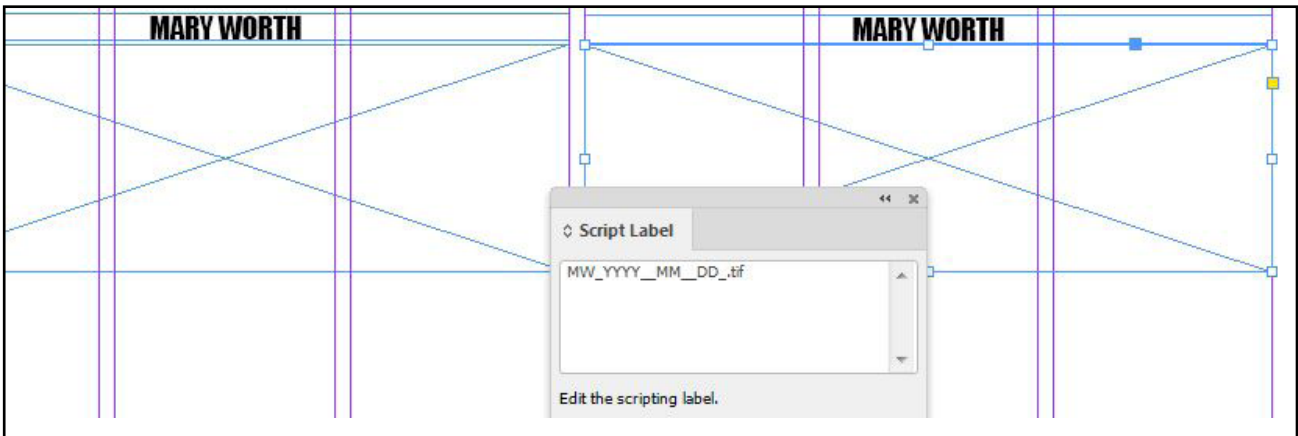
TMPL8   Add labels to comics layout

This utility creates the proper script labels based on the filename of the image in the graphics frame.

Open up a completed comics page where the linked file name has not been modified (that is, it is the filename as it was received from the vendor).
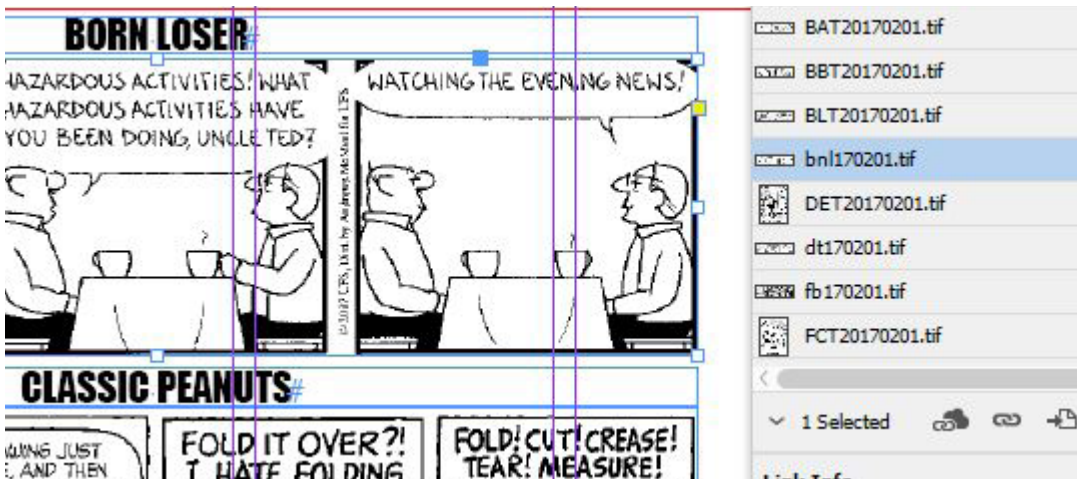
Run the utility; enter the publication date of the comics. If needed, set the offset days to account for combined-pub-day comic pages. Otherwise, leave Pub-Date Offset set to 0

Note: Utility will not run if the Year, Month and/or Date are equal (such as 07/07/2019).
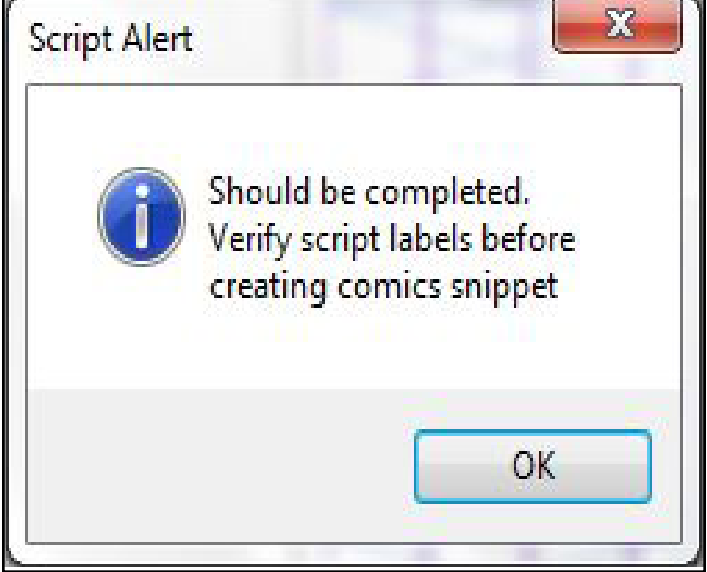
That should apply the proper script label and remove the image.
Verify the script labels are correct (modified as needed) and save the page as a snippet.

When to use Pub-Date Offset:
The scenarios presented for papers that don't publish 7 days a week.

The publication prints two page of comics on Tuesday. For sake of explanation, the left-hand page is Monday's strips (05/01/2017); the right- hand page is Tuesday's (05/02/2017) strips.

The goal is to create a snippet for "left hand comics Tuesday". The right hand side is no different than a regular basic comics snippet. The left hand page, however, would need to look for files that are a day earlier than the publication date – so those labels would need to be prefixed with SUB1_.

For the left-hand page, use the date of 05/01/2017 choose an offset of -1. The labels will be created with the proper prefix as in this example: SUB1_bnl_YY__MM__DD_.tif

Second scenario: on Tuesdays, a single comics page contains both Monday and Tuesday strips. One page, two dates. Strips side by side.

In that case, first run the script for Tuesday's release date as annotated in the filename with 0 offset - and the label will be bnl_YY__MM__DD_.tif.

In the same document, run the script based on the filename of the links (Monday's date) and with offset of "-1" The label becomes SUB1_bnl_YY__MM__DD_.tif for that frame.