Account Management - User Preference Center

0.0

Give readers a single, trusted place to shape how the site looks and feels, what content they follow, and how Lee reaches them, so that every return visit feels more like theirs and less like a generic news homepage.

User Need

"I want a site that remembers what I care about and looks the way I want it to without having to reset it every time or hunt for a settings page that actually works."

Required Elements

Main Nav with account identity (name, email, subscription status badge)

Section navigation (tabs for other preference settings)

Site preferences with clear visual separation between each group

- Theme - light and dark mode with better naming
- Layout - options with inline help text explaining impact on homepage and section pages (e.g., condensed, comfortable, feed)
- Text size - small, medium, large, with preview

Topics you follow

- Focus on being able to unfollow followed topics
- brief contextual blurb below the heading about impact
- explicit save/discard
- Link to discover all topics? - can follow from there

Journalists you follow

- same as above

Outgoing Actions (CTAs/Downloads)

Save preferences; changes do not auto apply without confirmation, discard changes, link to view all topics, unfollow topic, link to view all journalists, unfollow journalist, navigate to section page or topic hub from followed item

Business Need

Increase subscriber retention by making the value of following topics and journalists tangible and personalized, and replace the current unused follow-author feature with a surface that actually drives engagement.

- We need to find a way to get users to use this

Quality Bar / Acceptance Criteria

- Reader can locate the pref center from account navigation with 1 click
- All preference sections are visible on arrival without requiring a click to expand
- Layout options include inline help text explaining what changes
- Theme mode labels are not "light" and "dark"
- Following a topic does not silently follow all subtopics, explicit opt-in required
- Topics you follow section includes a blurb explaining where followed topics surface
- Sections are clearly separated visually
- Save and discard actions are always accessible

Bonus Features

"Recommended for you" topic suggestions based on reading history, a component on the homepage/section page/my digest that shows reader what signals are influencing their feed with unfollow option

Subscriber

- Full access to all preference sections

Subscriber experience should feel like:
"This is my account. It knows what I care about and I trust it to stay that way."

Non-Subscriber (Registered)

- Access to site preferences (reading size), and messaging for layout and light/dark mode to subscribe
- Follow journalist and follow topic with messaging to subscribe for my digest/for you

Non-subscriber experience should feel like:
"I can make this mine, and I can see what else I'd get if I subscribed."