

The Times – v1.2 | Greg Rickaby dESIGN

Install Instructions (Be patient, this isn't an ordinary skin)

Skin

1. After downloading, extract to your desktop
2. Open your favorite FTP program
3. Navigate to your Thesis directory
Example: /wp-content/themes/thesis_16/
4. Upload & overwrite your /custom/ directory
5. Navigate back to your site root and upload:
 - a. show_image_breakthumb.php
 - b. show_image_featimage.php
 - c. show_image_featthumb.php
 - d. show_image_hpteaaser.php
 - e. viva.inc.php
6. Navigate to /wp-content/uploads
7. Upload *ads* and *cache*
8. Set Permissions on *cache* to “777” ([help](#))

Plug-ins

1. Navigate to your plug-ins directory: /wp-content/plugins/
2. Upload *Viva Thumb*, *WP-Optimize*, & *Page Links To*
3. Log in to your Wordpress Dashboard
4. Click on “Plugins”
5. Activate *Viva Thumb*, *WP-Optimize*, & *Page Links To*

Activation

Homepage

1. Log in to your Wordpress Dashboard
2. Navigate to Pages
3. Click “Add New”
4. Type *Homepage*
5. In the drop-down menu on the right hand side (under the Publish button) select *Custom Template* and then click *Publish (or Update Page)*
6. Navigate to WP-Settings → Reading → Front Page Display = *Static Page*
7. Now select *Homepage* from the “Front Page” dropdown
8. Click “Publish”

Media

9. Navigate to WP-Settings → Media
10. Set *Medium* to: “400x400”

Permalinks

11. Navigate to WP-Settings → Permalinks
12. Set to “Custom” and *paste* this: */%year%/monthnum%/day%/postname%.html*

Visit Site Edit Pages Howdy, admin | Log Out Screen Options Help

Add New Page

Homepage 1. Type Homepage

Permalink: <http://thetimes.gregrickaby.com/homepage> Edit

Upload/Insert Visual HTML

(leave blank)

Path: p Word count: 0 Draft Saved at 11:21:29 am.

SEO Details and Additional Style

Post Image and Thumbnail

Multimedia Box Options

Publish

Save Draft Preview

Status: Draft Edit

Visibility: Public Edit

Publish immediately Edit

3. Click "Publish" Publish

Attributes

Parent

Main Page (no parent)

You can arrange your pages in hierarchies, for example you could have an "About" page that has "Life Story" and "My Dog" pages under it. There are no limits to how deeply nested you can make pages.

Template 2. Select "Custom Template"

Custom Template

Default Template Archives Custom Template No Sidebars

Order

The Times Visit Site

Reading Settings

Dashboard Posts Media Links Pages Edit Add New Comments

Appearance Plugins Users Tools Settings General Writing Reading

Front page displays

1. Select "Static Page"

Your latest posts

A static page (select below)

Front page: Homepage

Posts page: - Select - About Blog Buy The Times Homepage Support Forum

2. Select "Homepage"

Blog pages show at most 10 posts

Syndication feeds show the most recent 10 posts

For each article in a feed, show Full text Summary

Encoding for pages and feeds UTF-8 (recommended)

Save Changes 3. Click "Save"

The Times

Visit Site

Dashboard

Posts

Media

Links

Pages

Comments

Appearance

Plugins

Users

Tools

Settings

General

Writing

Reading

Discussion

Media

Privacy

Permalinks

Miscellaneous

Viva Zoom

Media Settings

Image sizes

The sizes listed below determine the maximum dimensions in pixels to use when inserting an image into

Thumbnail size

Width150Height150

☒ Crop thumbnail to exact dimensions (normally thumbnails are proportio

Medium size

Max Width400Max Height400

Large size

Max Width1024Max Height1024

Save Changes

The Times

Visit Site

Dashboard

Posts

Media

Links

Pages

Comments

Appearance

Plugins

Users

Tools

Settings

General

Writing

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Miscellaneous

Viva Zoom

Permalink Settings

By default WordPress uses web URLs which have question marks and lots of numbers in their create a custom URL structure for your permalinks and archives. This can improve the aesthetic links. A [number of tags are available](#), and here are some examples to get you started.

Common settings

☐ Default

http://thetimes.gregrickaby.com/?p=123

☐ Day and name

http://thetimes.gregrickaby.com/2009/12/13/sample-post/

☐ Month and name

http://thetimes.gregrickaby.com/2009/12/sample-post/

☐ Numeric

http://thetimes.gregrickaby.com/archives/123

☒ Custom Structure

1. Select "Custom Structure" /%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%.html

Optional

2. Set to: /%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%.html

If you like, you may enter custom structures for your category and tag URLs here. For example make your category links like <http://example.org/topics/uncategorized/>. If you leave these blank

Category base

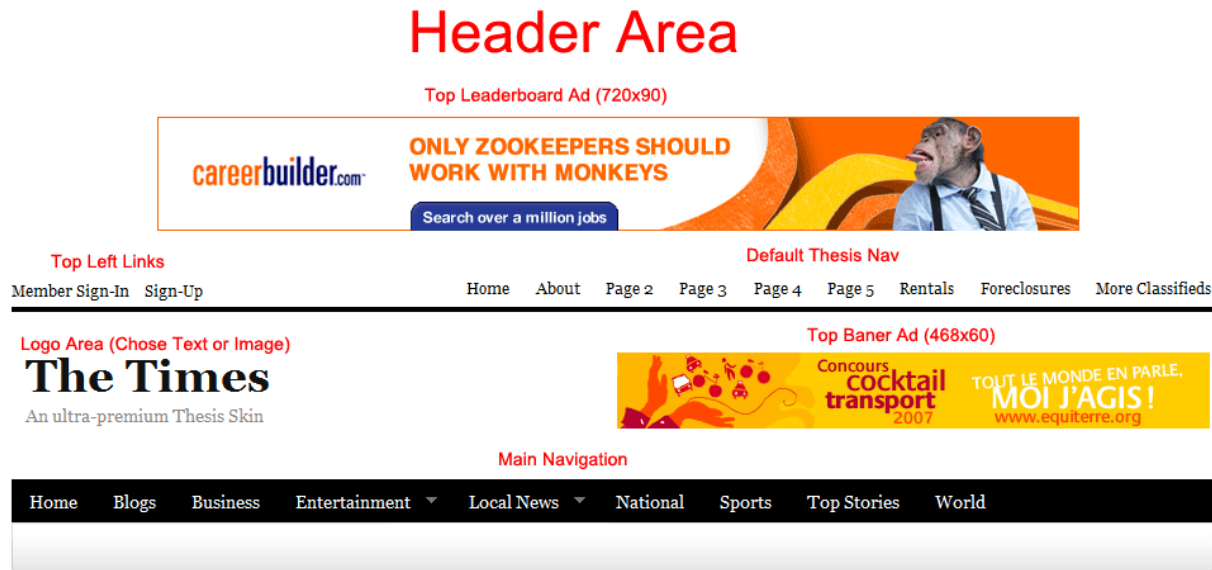
Tag base

Save Changes

3. Click "Save"

Header Area

There are many options in the Header Area. Including the Top Left Links, Default Thesis Nav, Two Banners, Text OR Image logos and the Main Navigation.



Skin Style

Choose from one of the six pre-styled color schemes

Logo Type

Text = This will use the default *Wordpress Site Name*

Image

1. Using your favorite FTP program, upload your logo
Example: <http://yoursite.com/images/logo.jpg>
2. Enter the full-path to the logo in the *Logo Image Path* box

Keep Tagline = When using an image logo, you have the options to turn-off the default Wordpress tagline

Top Left Link – The Text = Enter some text in this box. Example: *Members Sign-In*

Top Left Link – The URL = Enter the URL for the above text: <http://yoursite.com/members>

Top Left Link 2 – The Text = Enter some text in this box. Example: *Sign-Up*

Top Left Link 2 – The URL = Enter the URL for the above text: <http://yoursite.com/signup>

Not seen in The Times Options, are the controls for the Default Thesis Nav. These options are can be found in *Thesis Options* → *Navigation*

Main Navigation



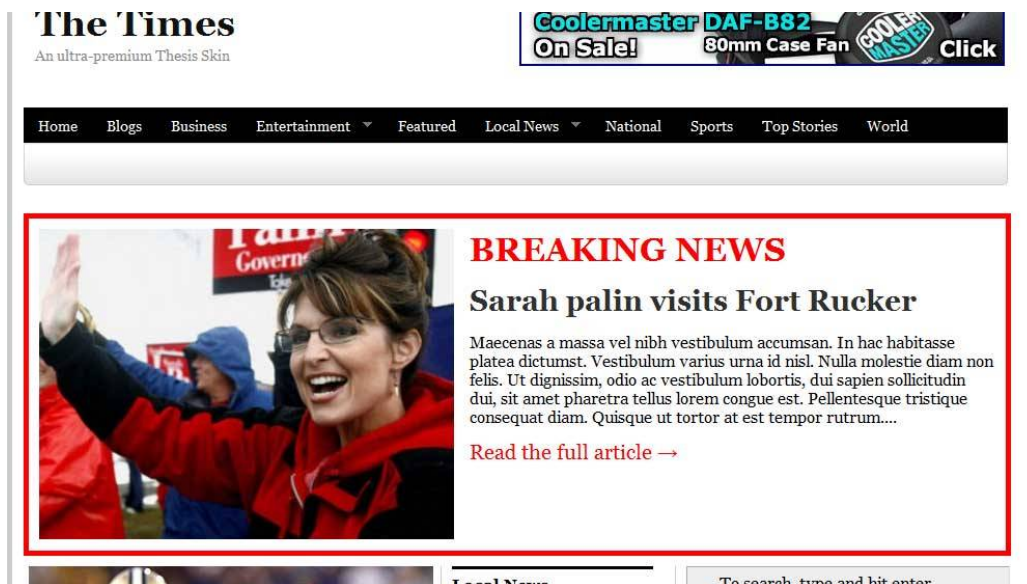
The main navigation area grabs categories that you've specified and populated with posts. It's a jQuery Superfish Drop-line navigation intended to place child categories into the space below.

Exclude Categories = Enter the Category ID of the categories you wish to exclude ([Help](#))

Order Categories = Select the order in which you want order the categories ([Help](#))

Sort Categories = Either Ascending or Descending

Breaking News Box



The Breaking News Box was intended to show emergency news and is operated by the default Wordpress Sticky Post feature.

Title = Enter the title of the Breaking News Box

Max Word Count = Enter the maximum amount of words to display

A screenshot of the WordPress 'QUICK EDIT' form for a post. The form includes fields for Title, Slug, Date, and Password. The 'Categories' list on the right shows 'Blogs', 'Business', 'Entertainment', 'Living', 'Movies & Reviews', 'Odd News', 'Opinion', and 'Sports'. The 'Tags' field is empty. The 'Status' is set to 'Published'. A red arrow points to the 'Pings' checkbox, which is checked. The 'Make this post sticky' checkbox is also checked. The 'Update Post' button is at the bottom right.

Featured Content Slider

Add Image

By default, the Featured Content Slider will grab the first image in each post. There are no extra steps to get an image to appear (as long as you've selected the respective category in the Options Panel)

VivaThumb will then auto optimize (compress, crop, then cache) that image to 390x244. Make sure when you add an image that's **AT LEAST** 400 pixels wide!

Add Video

From any major video site:

1. Copy Embed Code
2. Paste into Notepad
3. Highlight the URL after the *value* and then "Copy"

In your Post Editor, scroll down to Custom Fields:

1. Click on *Enter new*
2. Type "**featvideo**" in the Name field.
3. *Paste* video URL provided by ANY major video site. (Yahoo, Vimeo, Break, etc..)
4. Click *Add Custom Field*
5. Click *Publish*

The image shows a YouTube video player for "New Moon Movie Trailer - Official (HD)". A red arrow points from the video player to a Notepad window. The Notepad window contains the following embed code:

```
<object width="560" height="340"><param name="movie" value="http://www.youtube.com/v/KYBF3HKzrmE&hl=en_US&fs=1"></param><param name="allowFullScreen" value="true"></param><param name="allowscriptaccess" value="always"></param><embed src="http://www.youtube.com/v/KYBF3HKzrmE&hl=en_US&fs=1" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" allowscriptaccess="always" allowfullscreen="true" width="560" height="340"></embed></object>
```

Below the Notepad window, a red arrow points to the text:

2. Paste into Notepad
3. Copy the URL after value="
4. Paste into "featvideo" Custom Field

Custom Fields

Add new custom field:

Name	Value
featvideo Enter new	http://www.youtube.com/v/KYBF3HKzrmE&hl=en_US&fs=1&

Add Custom Field

Custom fields can be used to add extra metadata to a post that you can [use in your theme](#).

Accordion Slides

The Accordion slides contain 4 Module Positions. To populate these areas simple navigate

Weather

Cloudy

58°F



Tue

Wed

Thu







62/52

67/45

54/33

Slide 2

Slide 3

Slide 4

to the Widgets Page in the Wordpress Dashboard. Add any widget to Module 6,7,8 or 9.

Tabbed Module

Like the Accordion Slides, you have 3 module positions. To populate these areas simple navigate to the Widgets Page in the Wordpress Dashboard. Add any widget to Module 3, 4, or 5.

Tab 1 **Tab 2** **Tab 3**

Recent Posts

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

'New Moon' Makes A Pile Of Cash

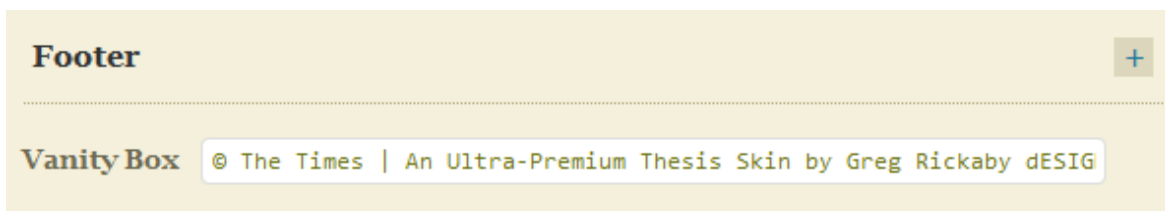
D.A. is determined to prosecute pot outlets

Apocalypse now: 'Collapse' and the end of the world as we know it

U.S. envoy reportedly warns against Afghanistan troop buildup

Footer

This option will allow you to quickly customize the "Vanity" on the bottom of the website.



IT DOESN'T SUPPORT HTML or PHP (yet)

Homepage Teaser Boxes

National



Obama makes a vow to veterans of today's wars

Reporting from Washington – On a day when Americans acknowledge military veterans, President Obama said he would honor current service members' work with a commitment to the "hard work of peace." Speaking Wednesday to veterans...

[Read the full article →](#)

The bread and butter of this skin are the 8 sub-loops. Combined with the optimizing features in Viva Thumb, these loops will pull the first image out of the latest posts in their assigned categories.

Top populate these areas you need to tell them what category to look at. To do this:

1. Create at least 8 categories
2. Populate them with stories
3. Add at least 1 image to each story (at least 400 pixels wide)
4. Select a category from the Drop-Down
5. You can also specify how many words are displayed in these boxes. The **default is 35** which seems to populate them well.
6. To change the default "Read More" text: Navigate to *Thesis Design Options*, and expand *Teasers* → *Link to Full Article*

Homepage Teaser Boxes

Box #1 

Box #2 

Box #3 

Box #4 

Box #5 

Box #6 

Box #7 

Box #8 

Max Word Count

Module Positions



Dothan to get Womens Football Team

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nam lacinia odio ac mi pulvinar ut rutrum ipsum accumsan. Nunc aliquam, nisi ut tincidunt portitor, magna diam tempus turris, et suscipit odio metus eget felis. Quisque...

[Read the full article...](#)



Oliver Thomas (left) and Phil O'Call



Dothan to get Womens Football Team



Senior finally gaining popularity in the 11th grade

Module 1

Module 2

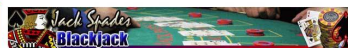
To search, type and hit enter



DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

Module 3, 4, 5

Module 6,7,8,9



National



Obama makes a vow to veterans of today's wars
Reporting from Washington - On a day when Americans acknowledge military veterans, President Obama said he would honor current service members with a commitment to the "hard work of peace." Speaking Wednesday to veterans...

[Read the full article...](#)

World



U.S. envoy reportedly warns against Afghanistan troop buildup

Reporting from Washington - In an unexpected dissent at a critical moment, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan has warned in classified cables against any further buildup of American forces in the country, senior U.S....

[Read the full article...](#)

Movies & Reviews



Apocalypse now: 'Collapse' and the end of the world as we know it

America has a bad case of the doomsday jitters. You don't have to be a Glenn Beck follower to know that whenever things go wrong in this country, you can always find all the anger, bitterness...

[Read the full article...](#)

Business



The state of Fender guitars

The sound of California business success came to my ears the moment I stepped through the door of Fender Musical Instruments Corp.'s 3-acre manufacturing plant in Corona. It reached me as riffs and solos on electric...

[Read the full article...](#)

Opinion



Vietnam, Afghanistan and learning from history

As President Kennedy pondered the risks of accidental war in the nuclear age - a nightmare he would confront head on in the Cuban missile crisis - he asked his senior advisors to read Barbara...

[Read the full article...](#)



Looking For an iPod?

Travel



Mexico's family-friendly hot spots

With news of drug-related violence and H1N1 flu in the headlines, tourism to Mexico has plummeted. But the truth is the violence is largely regional and the avian flu is no longer confined to birds...

[Read the full article...](#)

Living



Thanksgiving Countdown: Spiced pumpkin soup

Nothing says Thanksgiving like soup served in a pumpkin. This soup gets its heat from poblanos, a bit of paprika and New Mexico chile powder. It's often by some magic syrup. And, of course, it has some...

[Read the full article...](#)

Odd News



VW bus stolen 35 years ago is found in shipping container bound for Europe

When U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at the Port of Los Angeles opened a shipping container bound for the Netherlands, they discovered a 1965 Volkswagen bus stolen in Washington state 35 years ago. For now...

[Read the full article...](#)



Tired of going on countless interviews?

Footer
Column
1

Footer
Column
2

Footer
Column
3

Footer
Column
4

Footer
Column
5

Ad Positions

All Positions

[illegible]

3rd Party Plugins

Viva Thumb

Thumbnails are created automatically from images linked to posts (or image paths specified by you.) Click on a thumbnail and it zooms out to a full size image – again re-sampled by Viva to improve page loading time by executing the following actions:

Optimization = 70% (like choosing 70 when you “Save For Web” in Photoshop)

Cache = Viva will create an optimized copy and save it in /wp-content/uploads/cache/ (after at least one load, I've seen page times increase by three fold!)

Auto-Crop = Viva will auto-crop based on the center of your images (rather than Top Left to Bottom Right) providing a more accurate crop.

You don't need to do anything with this plugin once installed.

IF you see errors, you may have to have your Server Administrator “white-list” the following files:

show_image_featimage.php

show_image_featthumb.php

show_image_hpt teaser.php

NERD ALERT:

Why not use *tim-thumb.php* already provided by Thesis? Because 99% of time *tim-thumb.php* needs to be “white-listed” by a Server Administrator in order to work.

Pre-cache *your page will load slower*, however, once an image is cached there isn't a need for the script to run again. PLUS IT'S LESS LIKELY to be black-listed.

Journalists writing content with this skin don't want to be bothered with entering custom variables (height, width, path etc...) into each post. Not to mention, The Zoom Effect (once viewing a post) is also pretty damn cool!

Out of the box, VivaThumb JUST WORKS.

WP-Optimize

This plugin helps you to keep your database clean by removing post revisions, spam, unnecessary database entries etc... in a snap you will have lean & mean database.

I would recommend running this plugin at least once a week for heavy traffic sites.

Page Links To

This plugin allows you to make a WordPress Page or Post - link to a URL of your choosing, instead of itself. It also will redirect people who go to the old (or “normal”) URL to the new one you've chosen (301 Moved Permanently redirects are standard, but you can choose a 302 Moved Temporarily redirect if you wish).

This functionality is useful for setting up navigational links to non-WordPress sections of your site or to off-site resources. You can also use it to create a hand-crafted menu that links to pages, posts, categories, or anything within your site.

Change Log

Version 1.2 (12.13.09)

Options Panel:

- Removed extra "save button"
- Removed post count from Breaking News Box
- Added HTML & PHP functionality in Vanity Box
- Added Debugging option

Back-end:

- Updated documentation

Bug Fixes:

- Added VivaThumb code to Breaking News Box
- Chnaged documentation to reflect Featured Video code
- Fixed multiple categories displaying incorrectly in Homepage Teaser Boxes

Version 1.1 (12.12.09)

Options Panel:

- Refined and styled to match Thesis
- Category drop-downs
- Footer "Vanity" section

Back-end:

- Featured content slider is smarter and handles video better
- Image slider now supports videos too
- Slimmer code for faster loads
- VivaThumb integration with ALL sub-loop generated images (with caching!)

Front-end:

- 6 Selectable styles
- PSD for drop-line.gif so you can customize further

Bug Fixes

- Several IE7 & IE8 CSS fixes
- Set overflow to hidden on Tabbed Module and Module #2
- Featured content slider would display Video AND Image
- When custom field was set to "video" Thesis would show the video in the Multi-Media box

Version 1.0 Initial Release (12.1.09)