

## The old man and the sea: Seven-time runner-up of Hemingway lookalike competition is so determined to win this year that he's chartered a replica of the author's beloved fishing boat to get to the Key West contest

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- Richard Filip, 71, of Texas, rented a rare replica of author Ernest Hemingway's boat Pilar to cruise in style to the 'Papa' Hemingway contest
- This will be Filip's seventh attempt at the contest, which is the highlight event of the annual Hemingway Days festival, honoring the author's literary legacy
- The contest attracted 160 entrants and was held at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a frequent hangout of Hemingway's during his Key West residency in the 1930s

By JORDAN GASS-POORE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM  
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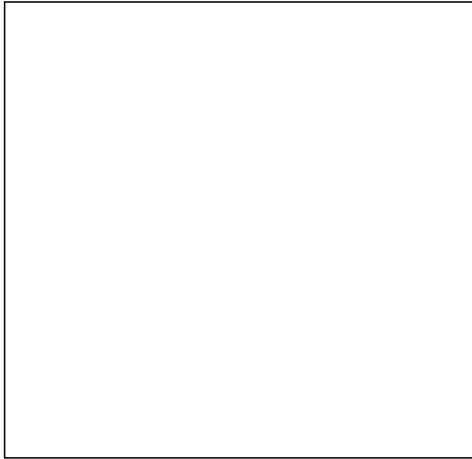
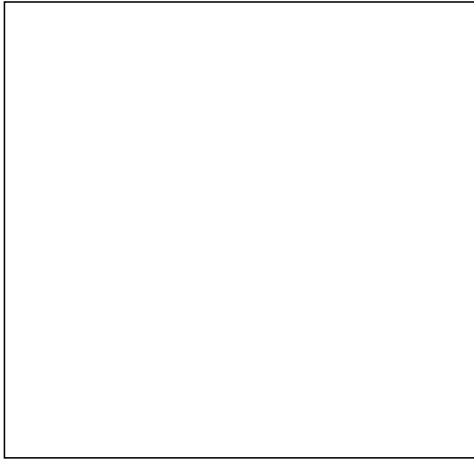
Not many people can write like Ernest Hemingway, but a surprising number resemble him.

For proof, check out the Hemingway look-alike contest, which takes place in Key West on the author's July 21st birthday. On this day scores of wannabe Hemingways compete in many activities, including fishing, arm wrestling and running of the bulls.



Richard Filip has competed in the look-alike contest seven times, and seven times he's been runner-up. But this year he's pulling out all the stops to be crowned 'Papa'.

Scroll down for video



Richard Filip (left) rented a rare replica of author Ernest Hemingway's (right) beloved boat Pilar to compete in the Hemingway look-alike contest for the seventh time in Key West



Filip, a 71-year-old real estate executive from Houston, Texas, docked this Pilar replica at the Conch Republic Seafood Company in Key West after he arrived there Tuesday afternoon

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The actress took to Instagram



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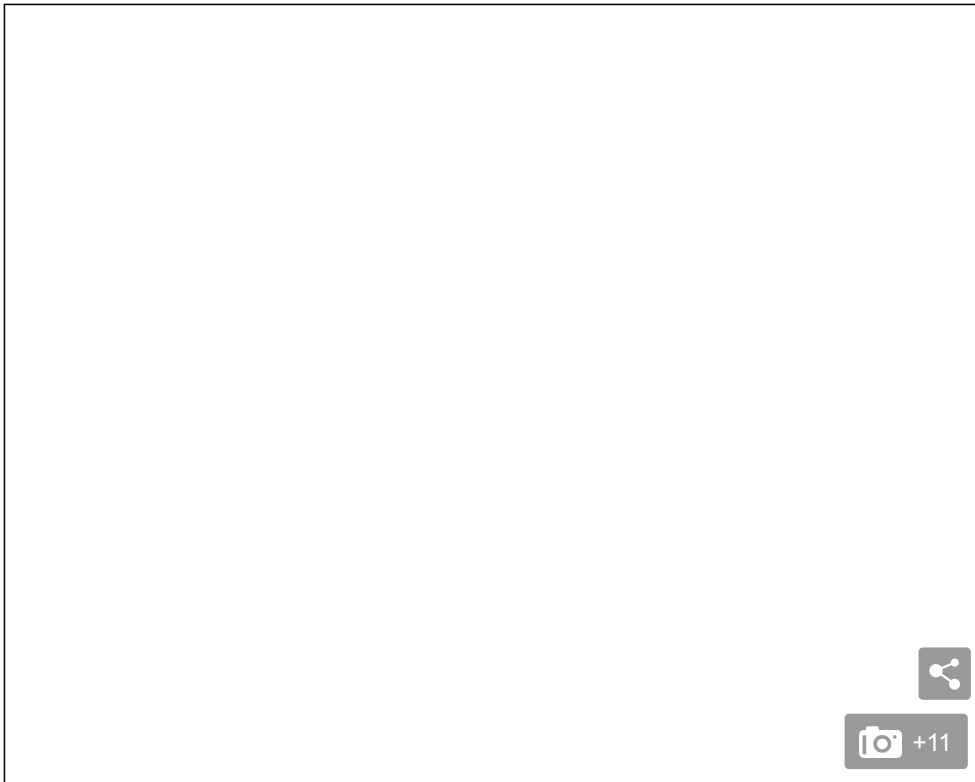
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**Hemingway fishes from his boat Pilar somewhere near Cuba in this undated photo. The famed author bought the 38-foot vessel in April 1934 and named it after his second wife Pauline**

Filip, a real estate executive from Houston, Texas, assembled a three-man crew and rented a rare replica built in 2015 of Hemingway's beloved boat Pilar to cruise in style to the contest. It's part of the week-long Hemingway Days festival that celebrates what would have been the author's 118th birthday.

Filip's decision to rent the Pilar replica from the Shannon River Foundation was simple: 'I thought, "Miami is only 140 miles from Key West, so why not?"'

Filip and his crew set sail from Texas to Key West on Sunday and, after making a few stops along the way, they arrived on the island Tuesday afternoon.

▶ massive tattoo collection including animals, compass and crossed guns with the slogan 'make em pay'

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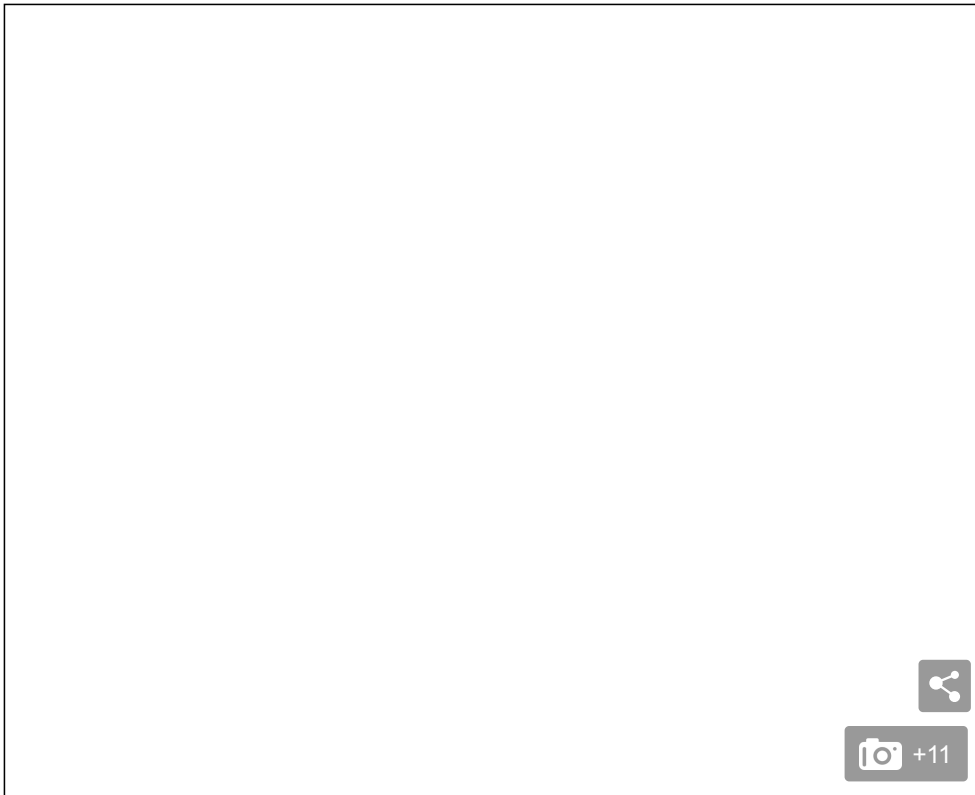
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Traded the Wyoming snow for the sand

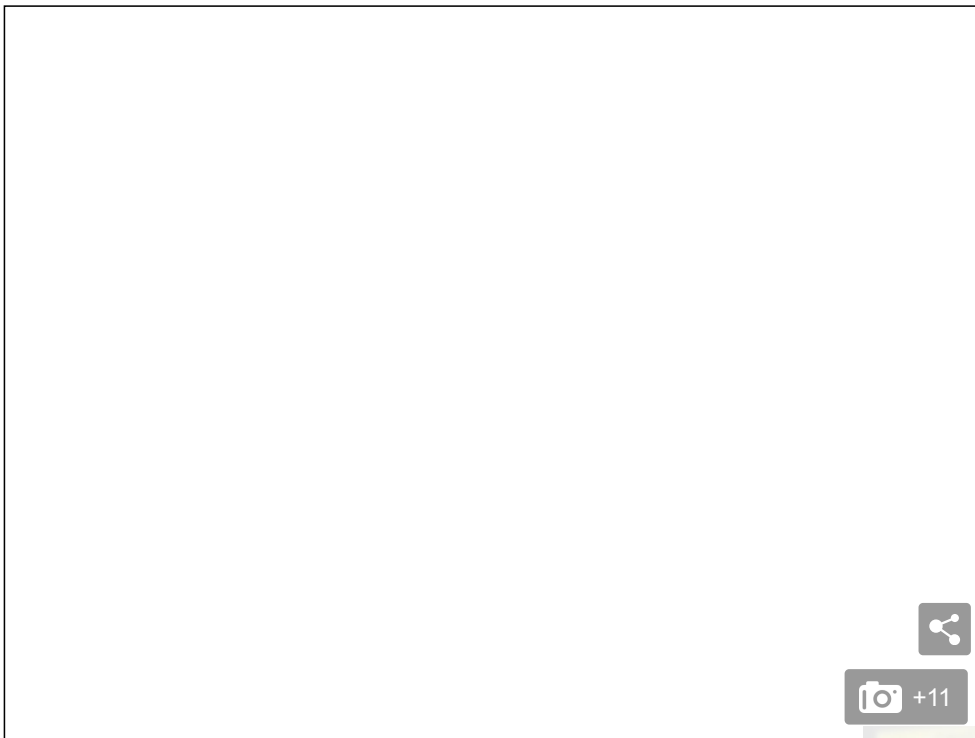
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Hemingway aboard his boat Pilar during an international fishing contest in this undated photo. The restored original vessel sits unused in the Finca Vigia in Havana, Cuba



Filip (third right) stands aboard the Pilar replica with his three-man crew on their journey look-alike contest, which is the highlight event of the annual Hemingway Days festival.

Hemingway owned a 38-foot fishing boat named Pilar, acquired in April 1934 by Wheeler Shipbuilding in Brooklyn and was named after his second wife Pauline. The restored original sits on blocks unused in the Museo Hemingway Finca Vigia in Havana, Cuba.

The Pilar would be Hemingway's refuge for the remainder of his life. It's also a way to delve into Hemingway's mystique – and his inspiration to win the Nobel Prize.

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contest.

Filip's team of supporters will once again don their orange campaign T-shirts emblazoned with the faces of the bearded 71 year old and Hemingway on the front and 'Who's your Papa?' on the back.



**Filip, seen standing inside the Pilar replica on his journey to Key West for the week-long festival, said the boat is his inspiration to win the Hemingway look-alike contest**

During the contest, held since 1981, spectators cheer, dance and wave signs while the contestants imitate Hemingway. They do this by wearing cable-knit sweaters, mimicking the author later in life.

These bearded hopefuls with a penchant for day drinking descend at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a frequent hangout of Hemingway's during his Key West residency in the 1930s, to compete for the title of 'Papa'.

Like the author, Filip said he likes to fish, 'is a rebel-rouser like he was and I look like him. So hopefully this is my year'.

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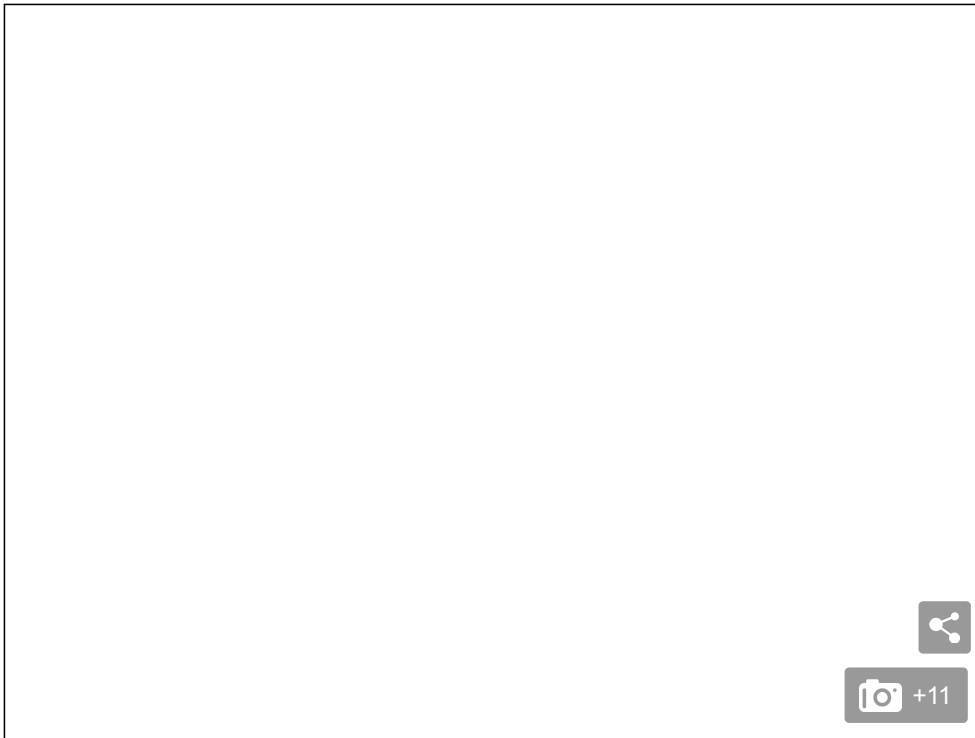
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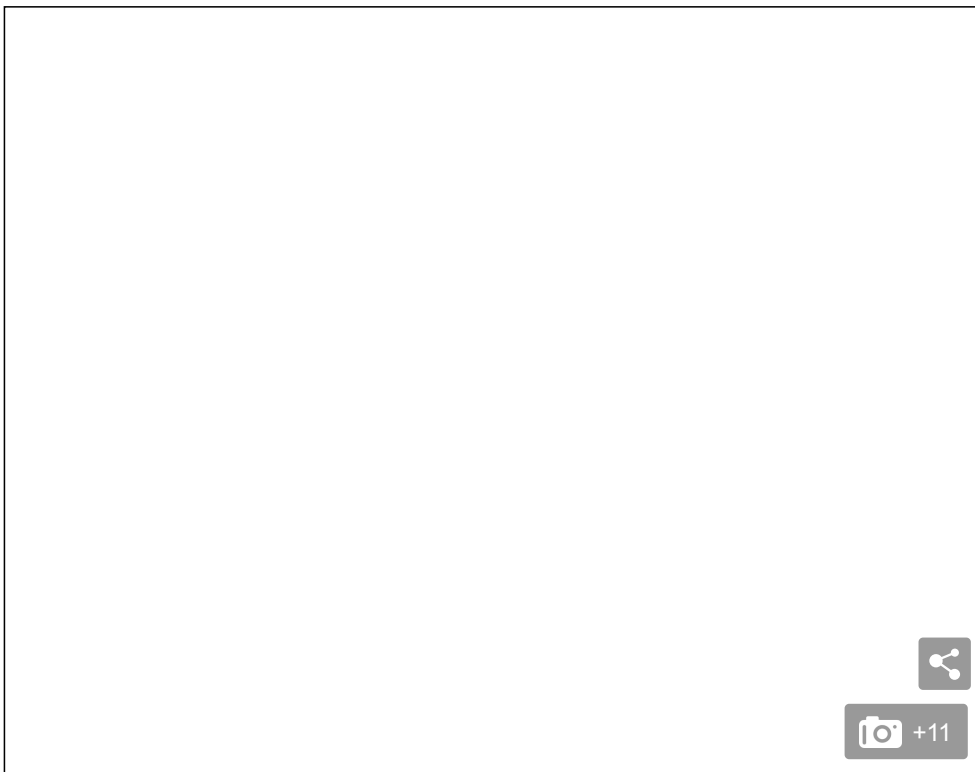
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Like Hemingway, Filip (pictured) said he's an avid fisherman and 'rebel-rouser'



Here Hemingway stands with a fishing rod and marlin in this undated photo from Key West. The author lived on the island in a Spanish colonial-style home for many years in the 1930s

To win though Filip will have to prove he's more than just a pretty face.

Much like a traditional beauty pageant, looks will only get the contestants so far. There's a talent portion where each man, outfitted in a white and red uniform complete with beret and handkerchief, runs amidst wooden bulls in a simulation of the famous event in Pamplona, Spain.

Hemingway became fascinated by bullfighting after vacationing in Spain with his first wife Hadley Richardson. It's at this time that at the age of 24 he began to...



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referred to as 'Papa'.

The nickname has stuck, decades after Hemingway fatally shot himself at 61, a violent end to what can only be described as a turbulent and over-the-top life. He had four wives, wrote seven novels and six short-story collections and drank enough booze to float his beloved boat Pilar.

**Richard Filip sets sail in a replica of Hemingway's prized boat**



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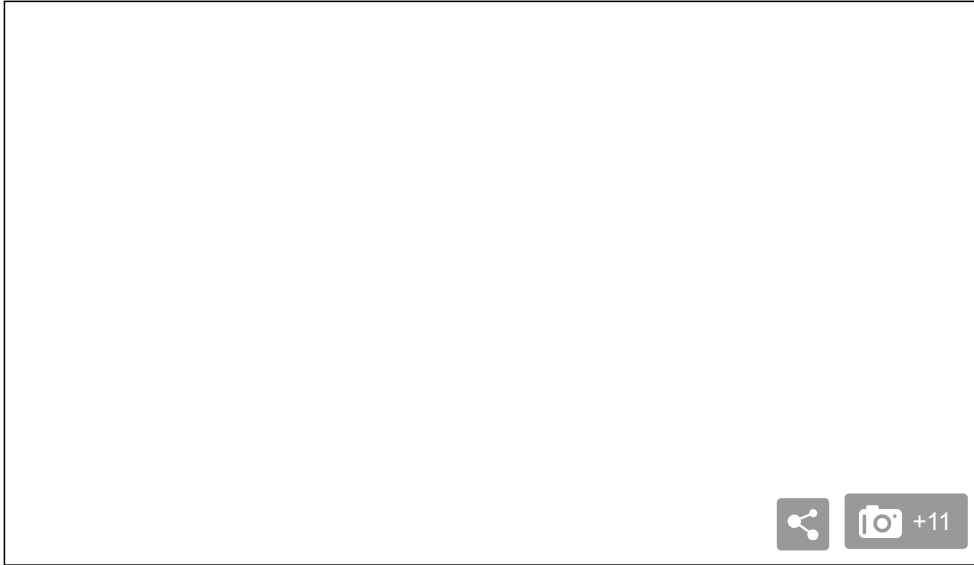
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Hemingway, pictured standing with a shotgun indoors in the 1950s, is known for his masculine writing style and his numerous novels such as *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*



The Hemingway look-alike contest attracted 160 entrants and was held at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a frequent hangout of the author's during his Key West residency in the 1930s

While living in a Spanish colonial-style home in Key West in the 1930s, Hemingway wrote several works including *To Have and Have Not* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

In a novel coincidence, last year's 'Papa' was a real Hemingway, Dave Hemingway of Macon, North Carolina that is. Although he's not related to the author and doesn't write, he shares other traits the Nobel laureate besides his beard and last name.

'I like to fish, I like to drink a little bit, I like women and I just like having a good fun time,' Dave Hemingway told [CBS Miami](#) at the time.

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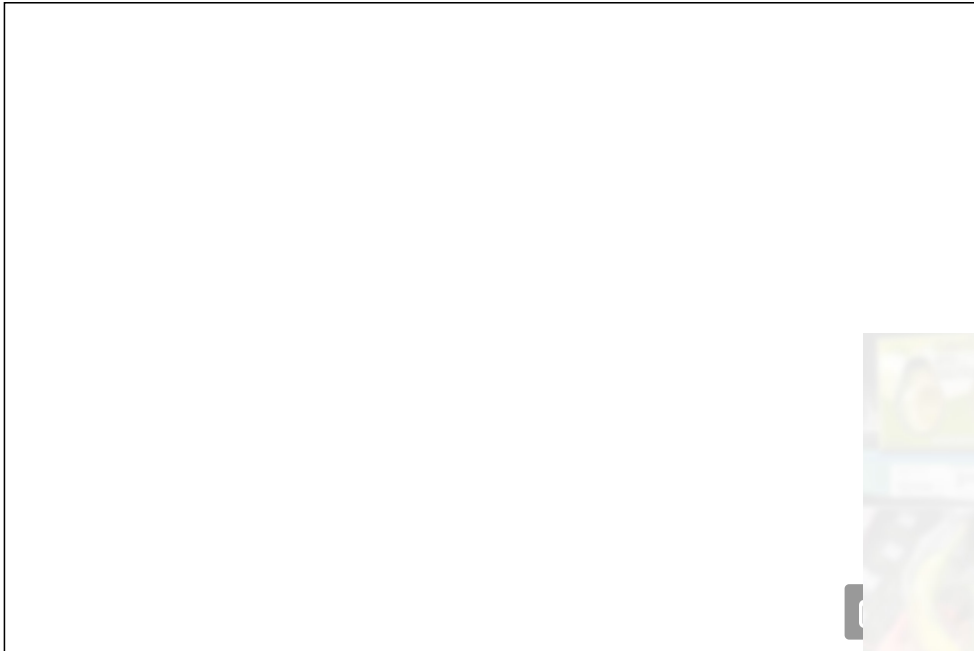
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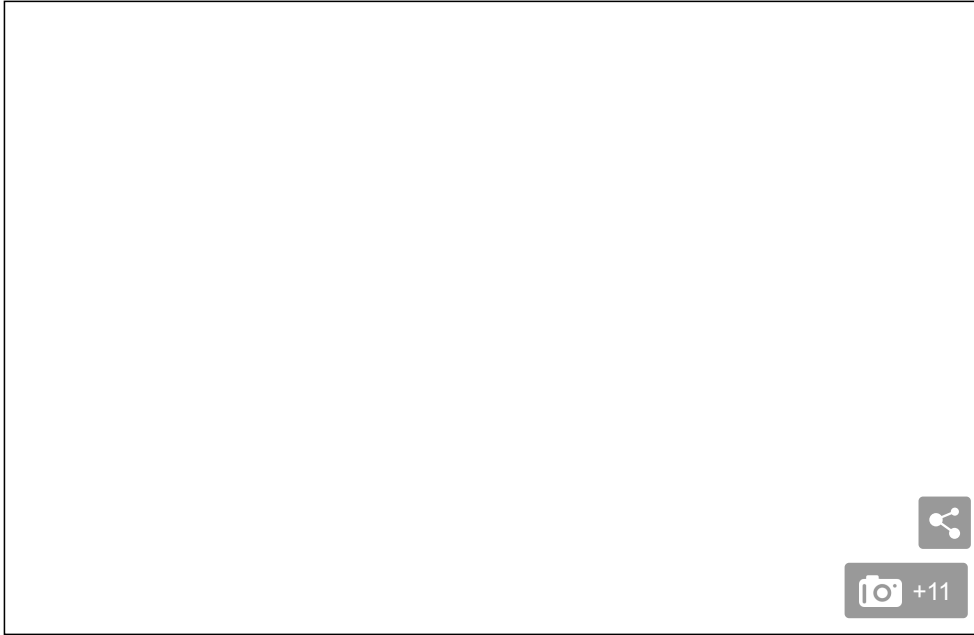
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**Hemingway look-alike contestants participate in an offbeat 'Running of the Bulls' in celebration of the author's birthday on July 21, 2001, in Key West**



**Here Hemingway look-alike contest semi-finalists acknowledge the audience at Sloppy Joe's Bar on July 20 in Key West. Some 160 contestants registered for this year's competition**

Although this was the first time a man with the surname Hemingway won the contest, this wasn't Dave's first time entering the competition. He's competed seven times for the bronze bust of the literary figure.

Previous Papa winners judge the following year's contest and have formed the Hemingway Look-Alike Society, which has established a scholarship program for students in the Florida Keys. In 14 years the society has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships.

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Pair hit the town together

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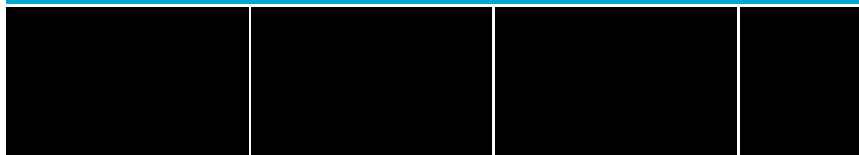
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▶ **Only in Australia! Rebel Wilson is chased by a WOMBAT and jokes it's her 'newest form of cardio' as she visits a Sydney wildlife sanctuary**

▶ **Jessie J shares emotional Instagram post about 'healing' as she offers mental wellness advice to her followers amid Channing Tatum split**



▶ **Jessica Simpson hits the slopes with daughter Maxwell and brother-in-law Evan Ross during family trip to Aspen, Colorado**  
Hitting the slopes

▶ **'I nearly burst into tears': Fatboy Slim became emotional listening to his viral Right Here, Right Now remix that samples Greta Thunberg**

▶ **Kris Jenner is picture perfect wearing a vibrant green gown for dinner with Corey Gamble in St. Barts**

▶ **Disney star Devan Leos avoids jail in attempted murder case in LA over car incident with man in 7-Eleven parking lot**

▶ **Kylie Minogue enjoys a break on Rottneest Island as she glams up for a photo shoot... after starring in a \$15m Tourism Australia campaign**

▶ **Eyes on the prize: Rafael Nadal jets into Perth for the inaugural ATP Cup... after a brief honeymoon with wife Xisca Perelló**

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▶ **Kim Kardashian's BFF Larsa Pippen showcases her dangerous curves in yellow skintight pantsuit**  
Made a bold fashion statement

▶ **Jennifer Lopez indulges in post-Christmas furniture**

**TODAY'S  
TOP VIDEOS**

▶ **social media followers to choose a name for her unborn baby girl**  
Options included Shay, Presley and Selena

▶ **Tori Spelling looks like BFFs with her husband's ex Mary Jo Eustace in selfie... years after cheating scandal: 'I never thought this pic would happen'**

▶ **Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker writers weren't trying to 'sideline' Rose Tico... after fans speak out about Kelly Marie Tran's beloved character**

▶ **Sir Tom Jones, 79, admits he eyes up women in their thirties but confesses 'it's mostly the grandmothers who fancy me'**

▶ **Mariah Carey braves the snow for a spot of shopping at Louis Vuitton in Aspen with her beau Bryan Tanaka**

▶ **'Oh God!' You star Penn Badgley accidentally lets slip that psychotic stalker Joe Goldberg WILL return for a third season of hit Netflix show**

▶ **Mark Wahlberg's wife Rhea sizzles in a thong swimsuit while chiseled actor displays his washboard abs on holiday in Barbados**

▶ **EXCLUSIVE Meghan and Harry's \$14m holiday hideaway revealed: Royals spent first Christmas with baby Archie at Canadian waterfront mansion**

▶ **Jenna Dewan flaunts**

**TODAY'S  
TOP VIDEOS**

▶ Anthony Joshua shows off his sporting prowess as he goes jet skiing off the shores of Barbados during festive break... weeks after huge boxing victory

▶ Vanessa Hudgens is a candid cutie as she enjoys the holidays in Switzerland... after announcing 2020 clothing line and album on Instagram

▶ Tammy Hembrow showcases her sensational figure in a skimpy bikini top and matching pants as she enjoys an idyllic Bali getaway

▶ Victoria Beckham is praised by close pal Eva Longoria as they spend Christmas together... amid claims her fashion empire is battling huge debt

▶ James Packer and girlfriend Kylie Lim trudge through the snow in Aspen as they enjoy a quiet Christmas with friends  
Mariah Carey's ex

▶ Suki Waterhouse is in high spirits as she steps out WITHOUT an engagement ring after Robert Pattinson proposal rumors

▶ Disney actor Stoney Westmoreland, 49, who is accused of trying to have sex with a 13-year-old boy, claims the judge in his case has a bias against gay people

▶ Magician Criss Angel posts heartbreaking photos of his five-year-old son Johnny in chemotherapy and reveals his cancer has relapsed

▶ 'I don't want to fall apart in public': James May, 56, admits he could quit The Grand Tour because he's 'developing nervous



**TODAY'S  
TOP VIDEOS**