

Housing for adults with autism opens on Cape Cod

Your perfect beach getaway is just a drive away

Southcoast Health, Lifespan suspend hospital visits to prevent COVID spread

It's not too late. Here's all you need to know about mail-in voting

Some Gateway Cities see crime drop amid pandemic



### Rhode Island Seniors On Medicare Are Getting a Big Pay Day

Sponsored By Comparisons.org  
Seniors On Medicare Are Getting a Big Pay Day

See More

Entertainment & Life

## Where did Rhode Island-style calamari start? Many willing to take credit

Find out who our readers have chosen as the 2020 Best of the Best!

- MOST POPULAR**
- 1 Meet the four women who preceded Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court  
Oct 27 at 10:15 AM
  - 2 MAP: Spooky things to do this Halloween season  
Oct 29 at 10:00 AM
  - 3 Fall River must take a step back in COVID reopening plan; entire area now in the red zone  
Oct 30 at 6:59 AM
  - 4 Mashpee tribe offers reward in search for missing teen  
Oct 29 at 9:44 AM

**Never Miss A Story**  
Subscribe to The Herald News, Fall River, MA

Subscribe Now

**OUR PICKS**

Check Out the Winners!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Log In / Sign Up

What are you looking for?

7 Nov Rock

**1st Annual OKTOBERFEST**  
Oktoberfest Music Series & Halloween Bash w/ Rob Davis  
9 Strings Bar & Grill, Johnston 2:00 PM

MORE EVENTS PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

powered by **eventbrite**

**THE COST OF LIVING KEEPS GOING UP**

The cost of your funeral doesn't have to.

**Full Service Funeral\* \$6,995**  
Advance-planning financing available. \*See website for details.

**Dignity**  
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED!

WARNING-SULLIVAN HOMES OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTE  
BIRCHCREST CHERRY PLACE ROSE & SULLIVAN  
Barnstable Fall River Somerset  
508-676-1933 508-676-1933 508-676-1495

A Service Family Affair use of AFPS and Service Corporation International, 200 Worcester Street, Fall River, MA 02720, (508)676-1494.



Marchetti's Restaurant was a winner with Wall Street Journal restaurant writer Charles Passy for their Calamari alla Mamma on the menu in Cranston. [The Providence Journal, file/ Steve Szydlowski]

By Gall Clampa / The Providence Journal  
Posted Oct 21, 2020 at 5:00 AM

Last month, reporter Charles Passy of the Wall Street Journal asked me a question for which I had no answer. Where did Rhode Island-style calamari start? Why, he asked, would anyone have the idea to deep-fry squid and then saute it in garlic butter and pair it with hot peppers?

As I scanned my empty brain, he filled in the dead air, explaining he is the New York City restaurant writer for the WSJ. He comes to Rhode Island every summer to vacation, staying on Block Island.

This year, he traveled around the state trying my suggestions of where to satisfy your calamari cravings. When he asked restaurant owners and chefs that same question, they didn't know. Three of them told him to ask me.

He knew, of course, how much squid came into Point Judith -- he watched the Democratic National Convention and saw Iggy's Boardwalk chef with a plate of it and heard Joseph McNamara sing its praises.

As for the beginning, I don't know, and I told him that. While we chatted I searched The Journal archives and could find no moment that said calamari is here.

I began to speculate that this was a peasant dish cooked at home. Chefs brought it to their restaurant kitchens and made it so much more with their techniques. But really, I had nothing.

Passy loved all the calamari, by the way, especially the brown-sauce-covered calamari at Marchetti's in Cranston.

As soon as we hung up I began emailing and calling folks I thought might have the answer. They included George Kilborn, the general manager at Camille's on Federal Hill. He said that when he joined the restaurant as a server 15 years ago, he was told to respect the calamari because it was Camille's that introduced it to Rhode Island. But he had no proof or dates.

Normand LeClair, proprietor of the wildly popular and elegant Red Rooster in North Kingstown, didn't know either. But he too, started researching and found a blog from a Narragansett seafood company. It said that the New York Times wrote about squid in the mid-1970s using its Italian name, calamari. The story said it was showing up in some of the city's most elegant restaurants. But that it was the '80s before it really became popular at a wide variety of restaurants in big cities.

That made sense, we agreed.

I tried one more person, the man who started and ran Jimmy Burchfield's Classic Restaurant in North Providence from 1974 to 1994. Burchfield was more than willing to take credit for R.I. style calamari. He said his mother, Anna Antignano, and his mother-in-law, Angelina DeMunzio, used to clean the squid and make it for his restaurant. They brought the recipe from home. They'd clean the whole squid, a bad job, he said. Then cut it into rings, batter it up in flour, fry it with hot cherry peppers and finish it with garlic and sherry wine sauce.

But he also said he brought it to the restaurant because of the popularity of the Feast of the Seven Fishes, a Christmas Eve dining event for Italian-Americans.

After talking to all these folks I was no closer to a real answer but I imagine the reality comes from a little bit of all three. It seems certain it started in big cities, such as New York. But it reflected home-cooking traditions like the Feast of the Seven Fishes. But maybe it really took hold in Rhode Island because of Point Judith and all the good fishermen of Narragansett.

Passy's story will appear in an upcoming Saturday edition of the WSJ as a travel story.

### What's for dinner tonight?

Not sure? Come on in and have a look at our collection of over 700 favorite Southern recipes.

Search phrase...

powered by **SOUTHERN KITCHEN**

See all recipes SEARCH

Hello reader, our article commenting that you would normally see here is temporarily shut down. We still want to hear from you, so we invite you to go to our Facebook page or submit a letter to the editor.

SPONSORED CONTENT



### Rhode Island Launches New Policy For Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/Day

By Insfunter  
Do not pay your next car insurance bill until you read this...

READ MORE



### The Dead Giveaway That Tells You When Amazon's Giving You A Better Price Than Other Retailers

Capital One Shopping | Sponsored



### November Surprise: What "Second Wave" Means for Stocks

The Legacy Report | Sponsored



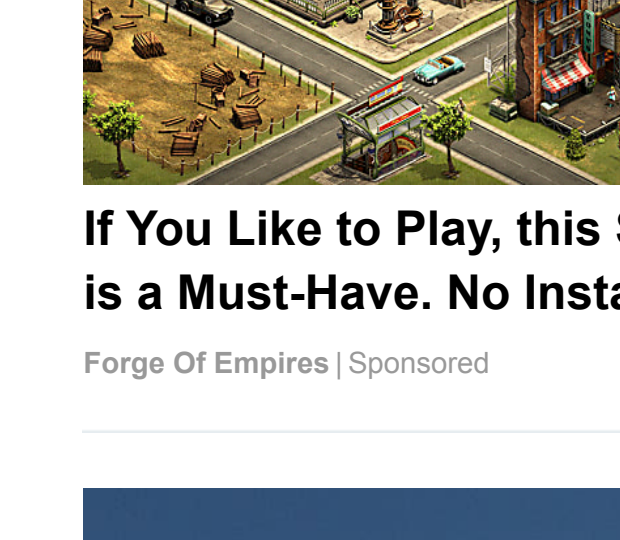
### Plastic Surgeon Tells: "Doing This Every Morning Can Snap Back Sagging Skin (No Creams Needed)"

Beverly Hills New MD Supplement | Sponsored



### Man Who Predicted 2020 Crash Issues Next Major Warning

The Legacy Report | Sponsored



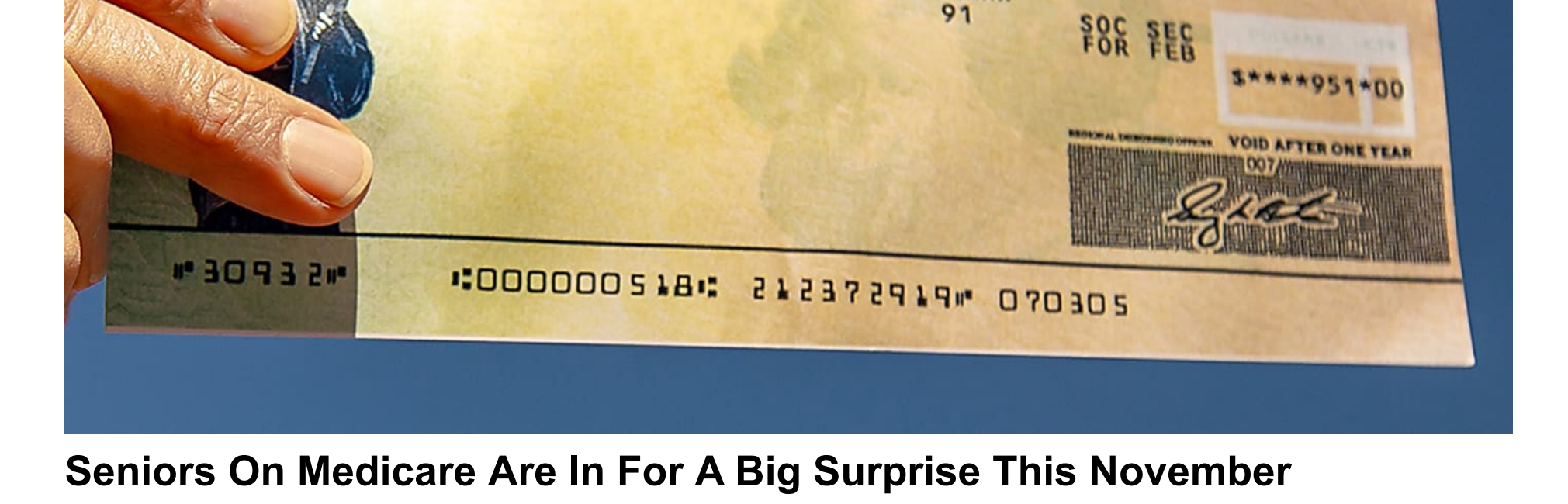
### If You Like to Play, this Strategy Game is a Must-Have. No Install.

Forge Of Empires | Sponsored



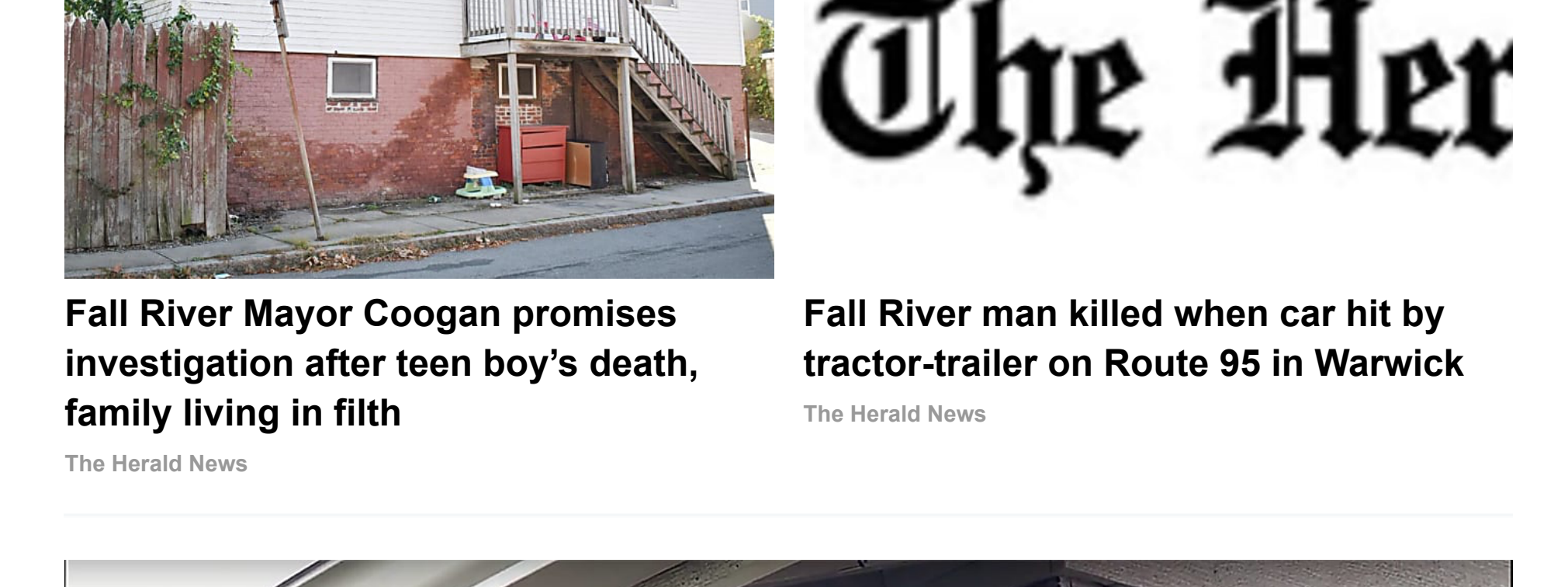
### Unique Tip If Your Car Has Automatic Headlights

Quotz | Sponsored



### Seniors On Medicare Are In For A Big Surprise This November

Quick Medigap | Sponsored



### Fall River Mayor Coogan promises investigation after teen boy's death, family living in filth

The Herald News

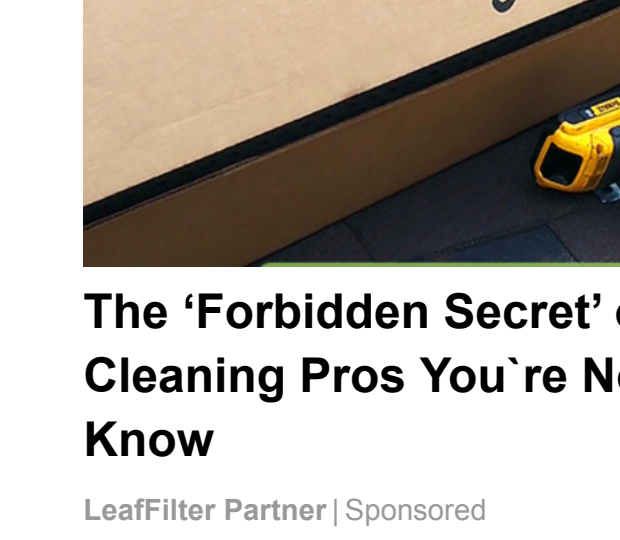
### Fall River Mayor on Route 95 in Warwick

The Herald News



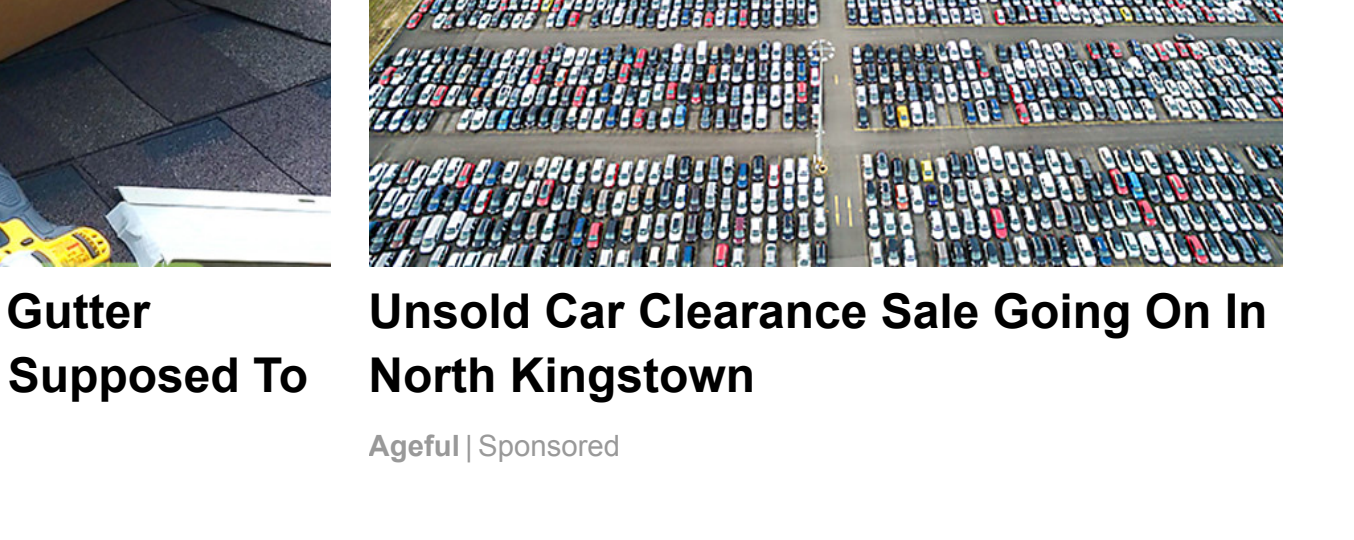
### Do This Instead of Cleaning Gutters (It's Genius)

LeafFilter | Sponsored



### The 'Forbidden Secret' of Gutter Cleaning Pros You're Not Supposed To Know

LeafFilter Partner | Sponsored



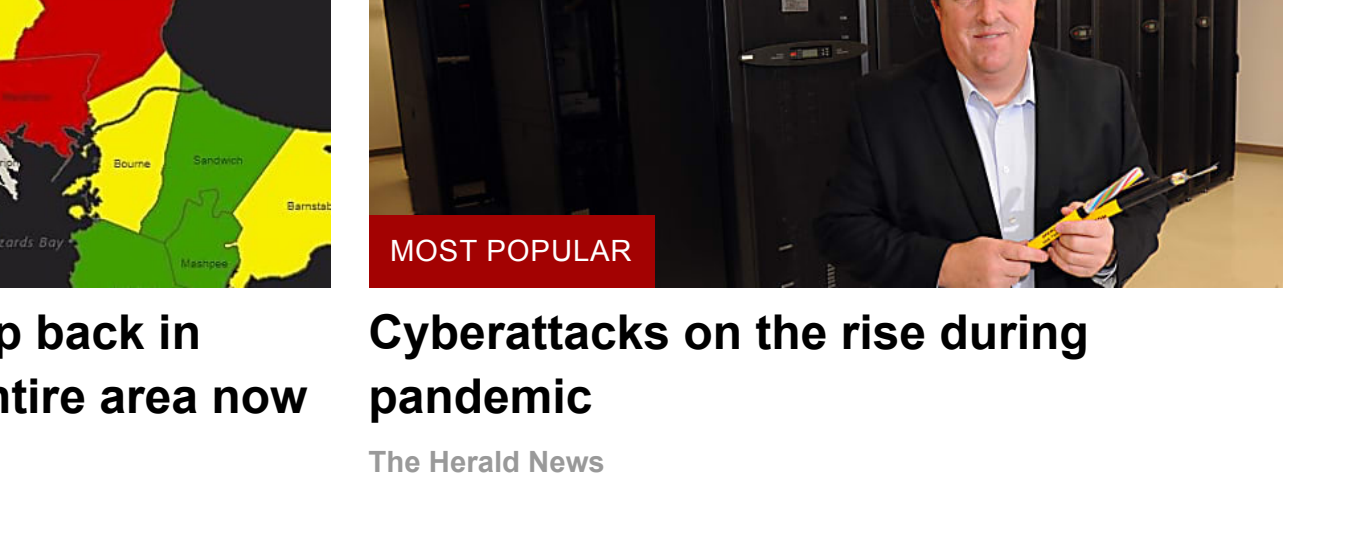
### Unsold Car Clearance Sale Going On In North Kingstown

Ageful | Sponsored



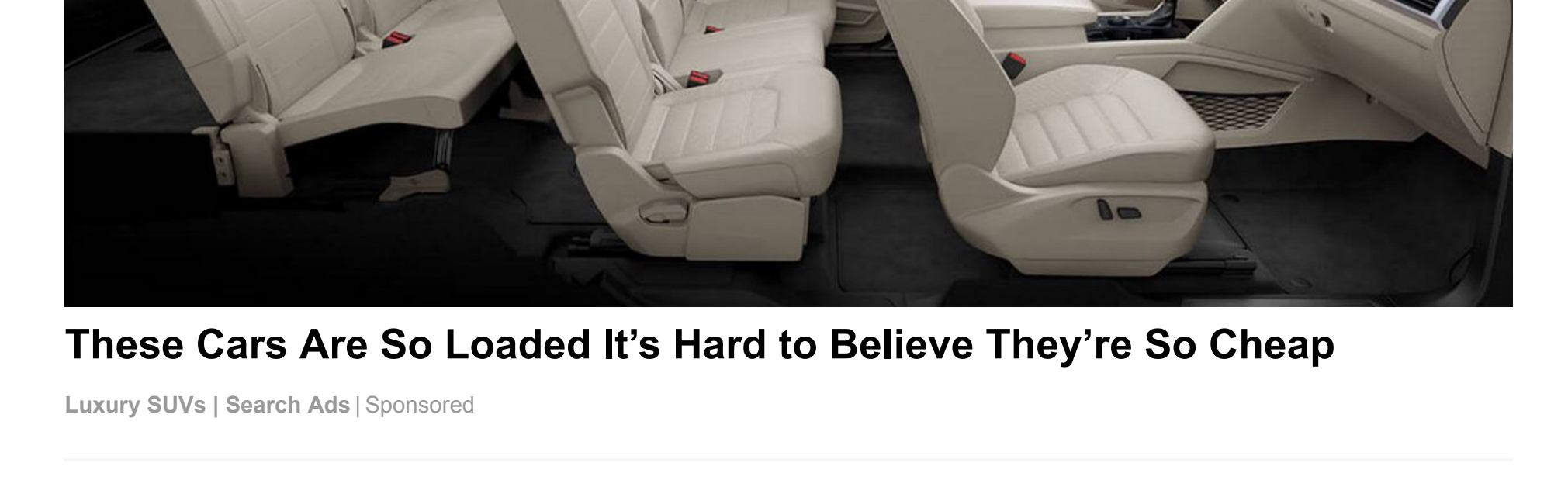
### MOST POPULAR

Fall River must take a step back in COVID reopening plan; entire area now in the red zone  
The Herald News



### MOST POPULAR

Cyberattacks on the rise during pandemic  
The Herald News



### These Cars Are So Loaded It's Hard to Believe They're So Cheap

Luxury SUVs | Search Ads | Sponsored

**Never miss a story**  
Choose the plan that's right for you.  
Digital access or digital and print delivery.

Subscribe Now

Sign up for daily e-mails

- SITE SERVICES**  
Support Local Businesses  
My Profile  
Work for Us  
Contact Us  
Submit Your News  
Subscribe  
Mobile-Friendly Account Management  
E-Edition  
Advertise with us  
Pay Your Ad Bill  
Newsletter Sign-up
- COMMUNITY INFO**  
Town of Somerset  
City of Fall River  
Town of Swansea  
Town of Westport  
Town of Tiverton  
Town of Little Compton
- MARKET PLACE**  
Classifieds  
Find Fall River Jobs  
Real Estate
- RESOURCES**  
Wicked Local Somerset  
Wicked Local Swansea  
Wicked Local Westport  
O Journal  
Taunton Daily Gazette  
Enterprise News  
Patriot Ledger