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'Making a Murderer' filmmakers say they expected backlash

DAVID BAUDER
MADISON WRITER

PASADENA, Calif. — The filmmakers behind Netflix's "Making a Murderer" documentary said they expected a backlash that would lead people in the media to demonize Steven Avery, the Wisconsin man whose prosecution in the 2005 death of a woman formed the centerpiece of the 10-part series issued last month.

Laura Ricciardi and

has followed the NPR podcast "Serial" and HBO's "The Jim" as a compelling true-crime epic, leading many people who have seen it to take up the cause of Avery, who served 18 years in prison following a wrongful conviction of rape and two years after his release was charged in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach.

The documentary

questioned whether Avery was treated fairly. Yet prosecutors — who the filmmakers said declined their request to participate in "Making a Murderer" — have claimed the film omits physical evidence against Avery.

A former fiancée of Avery's, Jodi Stachowski,

sold HLN this week that Avery was "a murderer" who had threatened to kill her. "The media are demonizing this man in order to prove his guilt," Ricciardi said. They said, however, that they expected a strong reaction. Although they said they were filmmakers, not prosecutors, they said they tried their best to reflect all of the facts in the case.

They ducked questions Sunday on their belief about Avery's guilt or innocence, even though they told Stephen Colbert on CBS' "Late Show" earlier this month that they believed he was not guilty.

Déjà vu: Spiros, Stencil to face off again

JONATHAN ANDERSON
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

MARSHFIELD — She lost handily in the last election, but Nancy Stencil wants another shot at unseating state Rep. John Spiros, a Republican from Marsh-



Stencil

field. Stencil, a Democrat, will get her wish.

On Saturday evening, Spiros told USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

that he would seek reelection in the 86th Assembly District.

The news comes the same day that Stencil, of Rib Mountain, officially threw her hat in the race.

Stencil launched her campaign during an event Saturday at the Marathon County Democratic Party office in Wausau.

The race will mark the second time the two ran against each other in 2014. Spiros walked back on the boat by more than 62 percent of votes cast in the race — 15,275 versus Stencil's 9,538.

Stencil works in the mental health field and has outlined a platform to boost public education, fundraise, generate higher-paying jobs and make health care more affordable.

"I want to continue giving back to a commu-

sity that has given as much to me," Stencil said in a statement.

Spiros, an executive at Raedl Transport in Marshfield, was first elected to the state Assembly in 2012.

He said he wants to continue focusing on job creation, the economy, "helping taxes in check and getting people to work."

"I think I've done a nice job for the last four years and I'd like to continue on," Spiros said.

The 86th Assembly District extends roughly from northern Wood County through central Marathon County, and includes Brekaw, Krynoski, Marshfield, Mostue and Weston.

State Assembly terms are for two years.

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Couple quits practices for Bahamas boating life

MICHAEL BURKE
MADISON WRITER

RACINE — When married attorneys Chris and Kate Simonds look ahead at the next six months, they don't see miles of files, clients and court rooms.

Instead, they anticipate long days of boating, snorkeling and exploring as many of the Bahamas' 700 islands as they care to reach on their 37-foot power boat.

The two practicing lawyers, ages 31 and 30, are about to start practicing nothing but relaxing and luxuriating in the Bahamas on their last day about the next six months.

Over the past few months, the Racine couple have sewn up their law practices, sold nearly everything in their house, which is also on the market, and bought themselves a power boat — and a ticket to paradise.

On Saturdays they were set to head for Miami where their Silverton 37 Silver Bridge boat awaits them. Soon, when they have a good weather pattern, they and their German shepherd will be cruising across the Gulf Stream to Bimini Island in the Bahamas.

After Bimini, Chris said, "There are 699 (Bahamas) islands left to explore."

Kate thinks their tropical interlude — before they move to Arima and start a new life there — will last about six months.

"I like to say when we run out of money," Chris told The Journal Times, "there were several reasons they decided to leave everything behind and



MARRIED Racine attorneys Chris and Kate Simonds have closed their practices, sold nearly all of their possessions, and bought a 37-foot power boat on which they plan to spend the next six months exploring the Bahamas.

drive into a sublime state of existence before heading to the Phoenix area. These include polar vortexes, crushing long hours at work, their love of summer boating and fond memories from previous family trips to the Caribbean.

Another reason was Chris' father's death after a heart attack in 2014 at age 53.

"That kind of put a lot of things into perspective regarding retirement accounts and the old life, for the day kind of thing," Chris said.

The decision to move to Arizona preceded the Bahamas plan, Kate said.

"When we realized we were actually going to do that and put everything on hold," she said, "we kind of had enough money saved up, and we decided that we won't have any other time in our life to just escape and do something really adventurous and important to us and

put everything on hold for six months and see what opportunities are out there in the Bahamas." They sold their other two boats — and nearly everything else they owned — and bought the Silverton, which is a Miami reserve price.

"As 'boat buyers,' Chris said, "it'll be fun to try to get it all. He described his vision of their imminent lifestyle."

"I try to think about what you do," Chris said. "You wake up about sunrise, you have a coffee or a tea, you jump in after the dolphins kind of stop collecting around, and you go try to hunt for your lunch. You open your group, or somebody'll catch a mackerel off the side of the boat, you snore-snooze around, you take a long time to marinate other time in your fish, you have a nice lunch, you take your dog for a walk on the beach

for a walk on the beach. Now, maybe, it's 3

Dave's

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The changes are quality additions and modern moves, as Lynn Steinmetz said she "likes to keep their finger on the pulse." But the Steinmetzes also are well aware of the history of the building, having owned it since 2009, and Crabby Dave's, which was established in 1991.

"We want to be quirky, fun and different," Lynn said. "We want it to be like Cheers, where guests are comfortable and recognized. We want the bar to continue to be quirky, fun and different. We have some regulars, but would love to have more regulars. We might not know your name the first few



MICHAEL A. SIEBER/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN
The Crabby Dave's original logo, left, and new logo is part of historic pictures and information on the wall in Crabby Dave's Restaurant and Lounge.

times, but we're good with faces."

Going Out Reporter Mitchell A. Skurzewski

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