

Swimming with the paintings



A 15-foot-long painting of a great white shark, created by artist James Prosek, of Easton, Conn., was hung in the Vero Beach Museum of Art on Wednesday morning by (from left), Dane Roberts, Marshall Adams, Dana Twersky, Matthew Mangold, Jay Williams and Jim Liccione. "The scratches and scars were specific to that shark, named Chex," said Williams, curator of collections and exhibitions at the museum.

**Story and photos
 by Sam Wolfe**

sam.wolfe@tcpalm.com
 772-978-6902

VERO BEACH — Anyone who has ever wanted to get an up-close look at a great white shark or giant bluefin tuna will have the opportunity during the Ocean Fishes exhibit at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.

Twenty-two of artist James Prosek's fish paintings will be on display during the upcoming exhibition.

"He does all of the fish life-size," said Jay Williams, curator of collections and exhibitions. "He measures them all, takes notes about their color and takes photographs."

"(Prosek) says he's not doing guidebook illustrations, he's doing portraits of individual fish," added Williams. "You might find a great white that's smaller or larger, but this is the one he actually saw."



The 15-foot-long painting of a great white shark named Chex was completed less than two weeks ago.

"The scratches and scars were specific to that shark," Williams said.

Paintings of fish such as snook, tarpon, sailfish, grouper and swordfish, all of which are caught locally, are included in the collection.

"We do a really wide variety of exhibitions," Williams said.

"The effect (artist James Prosek) is trying to give is that the fish really has that iridescence," said Williams. Twenty-two of the life-size fish paintings go on display Saturday. The exhibit, which contains paintings of fish such as sharks, mackerel, tarpon and sailfish, runs through Sept. 6.

"We thought this would be a great show for summer and combine science and art. Plus, it has a really strong relationship to our area."

The exhibit opens Saturday and runs through Sept. 6.

Information and the tale of two law agencies

So many questions; too few answers.

That's what I thought earlier this week after hearing that a man in Sebastian was shot to death and a 37-year-old Vero Beach man was on life support after being transferred from the Indian River County Courthouse to the county jail. The latter died Tuesday night at Indian River Medical Center.

The difference in how law enforcement agencies responded to requests for information was staggering.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office — reacting to social media questions about what happened to Mitchell Brad Martinez in an eight-minute ride to the jail — tried to be transparent. The Sebastian Police Department clammed up like it had never handled a fatal shooting.

Fourteen hours after a 12:45 a.m. Saturday incident, Sebastian police released a 24-line Facebook post explaining a cabdriver picked up a frequent passenger and his relative. Police said the two tried to rob the cabdriver at knifepoint. The cabbie then shot one of the two men who had fled the van. Police tracked down the suspects. One died on the way to the hospital.

No names were released. Almost no other details — including whether anyone faces charges — were released. The Facebook post said, "Additional information will be made available by Monday afternoon."

With still no information released Tuesday morning, police Sgt. Steve Marciniuk sent an email: "The incident is still very much an active investigation with an expected update possibly by the end of the week or early next week."



LARRY REISMAN

COMMUNITY EDITOR