

Local news

» Bridgeport: Board of Education unable to pin down outgoing Superintendent of Schools Paul Vallas on a resignation date. A2
» Wants jury trial: Former state trooper accused of stealing cash and jewelry from a dying crash victim rejects 1-year plea deal. A3

Nation & World

» Philippines: Desperately needed food, water and medical aid for typhoon victims starts trickling in. A11
» Health & Fitness
» Life imitates art?: A Texas doctor believes the TV show "Doc McStuffins" might inspire girls of color to take an interest in becoming doctors. C1

Sports

» UConn football: Former Masuk High School star Casey Cochran to make his first collegiate start at quarterback on Saturday when the Huskies face SMU. B1

Business

» Shopping starts earlier: Black Friday shopping, the annual rite of passage on the day after Thanksgiving, continues to creep further into the holiday as more stores plan to open their doors a day early. A6



CONNECTICUT POST

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Pit bull mauls Wilton woman

Dog tears off owner's hands: Incident recalls '09 Stamford chimp attack

By John Burgeson and Wes Duplantier

WILTON — In a scene out of a horror movie, a pit bull — apparently without provocation — attacked its owner, tearing out one of her arms and ripping off her other hand. The victim, Anne Murray, 56, was recovering at Norwalk Hospital, her son Matthew Murray said Tuesday.

Inside

» Experts speak: Why are pit bulls so dangerous? A5

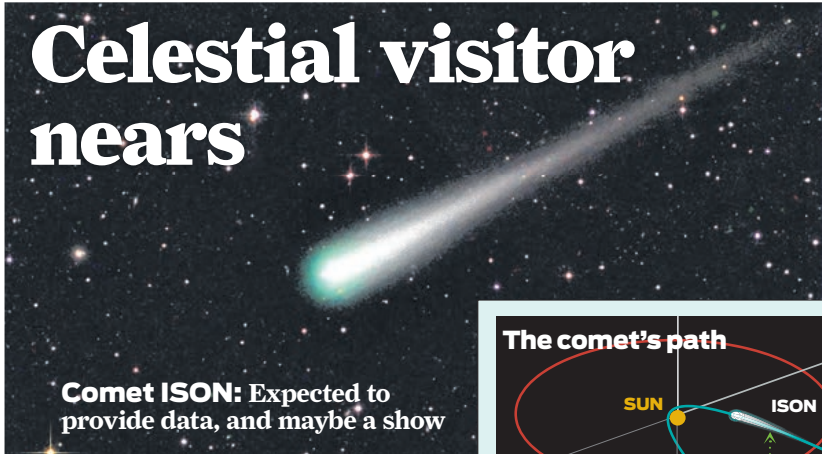
"She's better — she's awake now," he said. "I don't really know what happened. I just want to stay with her and get her to a full recovery." The attack at the Murrays' 77 Range Road home happened about

11:30 a.m. Monday. Police Lt. Donald Wakeman said one passing motorist, and then another, stopped because the dog had wandered into the road. "The first motorist found the dog to be somewhat aggressive, so she retreated to her car," Wakeman said. "And then one of the two motorists heard someone calling for help, so she called 911."

See Dog on A5



The collar of Tuxedo remains on the driveway at 77 Range Road in Wilton on Tuesday, where the pit bull attacked his owner, Anne Murray, 56, on Monday. Lindsay Perry/Staff photographer



Celestial visitor nears

Comet ISON: Expected to provide data, and maybe a show

By Robert Miller and Amanda Cuda

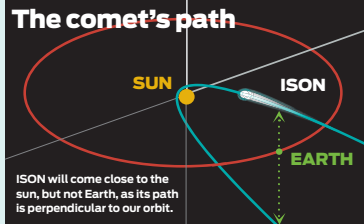
We have to be patient. Comet ISON has been traveling for a very long time, from very, very far away. We can't know what it will look like until we see it. It's a stranger here, sailing in from the far reaches of the solar system — maybe 6 trillion miles away, maybe more. Those who look for it will see a new comet. No Cro-Magnon gazing up into the night, no Persian astronomer, no magi, has seen ISON

before this year. That's part of what makes comets, including this one, special, said Dan Wright, president of the Westport Astronomical Society, which operates out of the Rolnick Observatory in the town. "Comets only visit once ever (in their lifetime)," he said. "It's so rare, it's so unusual and no one ever knows what they're going to do."

There was a great amount of hoopla when ISON was first discovered in September 2012 by two Russian astronomers. It's named after the International Scientific Optical Network, or ISON, an observatory where the astronomers worked. When it was discovered, there were immediately claims that it would be "The Comet of the Century." It would, some said, be brighter than the moon.

Wright and others are keeping a close eye on the event. He said he and others from the astronomical society will likely be at Rolnick early in the morning Wednesday or Thursday, looking out for ISON. Rolnick is at 182 Bayberry Lane, at the highest point in Westport, on top of an old radar tower.

See Comet on A5



Daryn Rowley/Staff graphic

About comets

- » If the sun were as tall as a typical front door, Earth would be the size of a nickel, Pluto would be the size of the head of a pin and the largest Kuiper Belt comet would only be about the size of a grain of dust.
» Short-period comets (comets that orbit the sun in less than 200 years) reside in the icy region known as the Kuiper Belt beyond the orbit of Neptune from about 30 to 55 AU. Long-period comets (comets with long, unpredictable orbits) originate in the far-off reaches of the Oort cloud, which is 5,000 to 100,000 AUs from the sun.
» Days on comets vary. One day on comet Halley varies between 2.2 and 7.4 Earth days (the time it

- takes for comet Halley to rotate or spin once). Comet Halley makes a complete orbit around the sun (a year in this comet's time) in 76 Earth years.
» Comets are cosmic snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust.
» A comet warms up as it nears the sun and develops an atmosphere, or coma. The coma may be hundreds of thousands of kilometers in diameter.
» More than 20 missions have explored comets from a variety of viewpoints.
» Comets may not be able to support life themselves, but they may have brought water and organic compounds — the building blocks of life — through collisions with Earth and other bodies in our solar system.

Malloy: Release Sandy Hook report

Governor says information on Newtown shooting 'needs to get out'

By Ken Dixon

FARMINGTON — An impatient Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said Tuesday that if the independent state prosecutors worked for him, the final report on the Newtown shooting would have been released weeks ago. But like everyone else who wants details on the Dec. 14 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School and the subsequent police response, Malloy will have to wait. He hopes the final report of Stephen J. Sedensky III, state's attorney for Danbury, will be released within the next week or two, to avoid overlapping with the first anniversary of the murders.

"It needs to get out," Malloy told reporters. "It needs to get out this week, next week. It needs to get out." Malloy indicated that the report's 11-month preparation period might have been less if the state's attorney had more resources. "I think that just with respect to the amount of time it's taken, then perhaps they should have applied more staff to it," said Malloy, a former New York criminal prosecutor.

» Inside Newtown: Malloy promises \$16 million for school security. A6
See Malloy on A4

Seeing ISON

- » To see Comet ISON in late November, you'll have to get up an hour or so before dawn, go to a dark place without much light pollution and look east-southeast. It should be close to the horizon.
» On Thanksgiving — also Hanukkah — the comet, which NASA has dubbed The Holiday Comet — will swing behind the sun.
» In early December, it should reappear, again before sunrise in the east-southeast.
» As the month progresses, it should appear throughout the evening and higher in the sky. It may have a long tail.
» The NASA webpage for Comet ISON is at: http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/smallworlds/cometison.cfm

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WEATHER

Clear. High: 39. Low: 28. Page A12



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