Look for the first magnitude star Aldebaran in near the Hyades star cluster and Jupiter this week. The larger asteroid Vesta is about 7 degrees away from the bright star on the 10th (about a full binocular field), and within 5.5 degrees by the 16th (less than a full binocular field). II.

The asteroid shines reflected light off the Sun, and glows at magnitude 6.4; a naked-eye visible object under VERY dark skies, but easily seen with simple binoculars or most any small telescope. Vesta’s location is plotted in green, with start/end dates. Note the two stars that it bisets; their magnitudes are listed on the star chart (without the decimal points, to reduce confusion with a star).

The star above listed at 55 is actually magnitude 5.5, about one full magnitude brighter than Vesta itself. Use these two stars to help you find Vesta; the closest 6.4 magnitude stars is listed as well (above where Vesta is moving). Watch the motion of this asteroid all week - it really is zipping along rather quickly!