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| http://www.strausnews.com/art/logos/township_journal.gif **Updated: June 1, 2011** |  |
| **Township Journal > News**  **Newton Robotics on a roll**   |  | | --- | |  | | The group recently introduced their robot to a group of middle school students at Green Hills School. The team showcased “Neo” and demonstrated its newest creation, a pneumatic can crushing device. |  |  | | --- | | http://www.strausnews.com/content/articles/2011/06/02/township_journal/news/21-2.jpg | | The team visited McGuire Chevrolet in Newton to learn about the technology behind the Chevy Volt EV operated car. |   **Published: June 1, 2011**  NEWTON — On May 21 the Newton Robotics Team was named champions at Monty Madness 2011, a robotics competition held annually in NJ.  Nine Team Aperture members made the trip to Montgomery High School with their 120-pound robot for the “LogoMotion” competition game that tests the workmanship of each robot as well as the skills of the four-member drive team. The team formed an alliance with teams from Ewing, NJ, and Ambler, PA, to compete against a total of 42 teams and take home the top prize in the regional event.  “I was in awe as I watched you all perform with the winning alliance. It was so humbling to be standing with two high power partners at the end of the matches in the center of the arena,” said Hofmann as he thanked his team for the extra effort and long hours spent retooling the robot for this competition. “Hard work and dedication really paid off big dividends.”  Hofmann, a technology teacher at Halsted Middle School in Newton and coach of the Newton High School FIRST Robotics team, was nominated for the Woody Flowers Jr. Award by team members. The award recognizes a team mentor who has done an outstanding job of motivation and encourages students to be problem solvers with strong communication skills.  “Mr. Hofmann was the one who helped us make it happen,” said Ryan Wolfrum, Team Aperture’s Captain. “Without his constant support and understanding we would never had made it as far as we had.”  This is only the second year for the varsity robotics team at Newton High School. Last year, the team won the FIRST 2010 Rookie All Star Award at the New York City Regional competition and earned a trip to the world championship in Atlanta, Ga. | |