

The Progress

Friday, June 26, 2009

Random ramblings as soggy summer starts

UPBEAT NEW JERSEY

By LEANNA BROWN

...Turning to the turbulent political arena in New Jersey, Chris Christie hit a home run by appointing District 26 (Morris/ Essex) Assemblyman Jay Webber to be state GOP chair. Jay is bright, young and articulate. He was a staffer for former Congressman William Martini responsible for budget matters and district office services. He also clerked for former state Supreme Court Justice Peter Verniero.

A strong family man, Jay ran against Senator Robert Martin in the June 2003 primary. Besides the fact that Bob was invisible in the district, Jay believed Bob's use of campaign monies to buy Starbucks coffee in the office and to fund his graduate school education was not illegal but certainly worthy of scrutiny.

On his Assembly web site, Jay cites his goal to make state government more ethical, transparent and cost effective.

Jay also knows the importance of grass roots organizing and hopefully will remove dead wood in the GOP....

The columnist, a resident of Chatham, a former Republican state senator, where she served as the assistant majority leader, can be reached at UpbeatNJ@aol.com. Her column appears here the second and fourth weeks of the month, alternating with columnist George Stafford, a Democrat.