

Johnson Seeks Spring Intern Applicants

WASHINGTON — As students begin to plan for their spring semester, Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, is now accepting applications for spring internship positions in his Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen offices and is also accepting applications for internships with the Senate Banking Committee.

"This is an excellent opportunity for college students to experience the United States Senate, Capitol Hill and Washington, D.C.," Johnson said. "An internship in my Washington, D.C., office or one of my state offices will provide students with a chance to serve South Dakota and gain first-hand knowledge of the federal government."

The Washington, D.C., internship program matches interns' interests to South Dakota and federal issues and provides a first-hand opportunity to experience a wide-range of office duties. Interns may attend hearings, research issues for projects, and work with the office administrative staff. Students may also apply to intern in the press shop for Johnson. Press interns work on tracking media coverage, organizing clips, writing releases, and other various press shop activities, as needed.

Internships in Johnson's state offices will provide students with in-depth knowledge of current

issues affecting the state and the opportunity to work directly with South Dakotans. An intern in a state office will assist staff with special events, constituent case-work and administrative functions.

College sophomores, juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for Johnson's spring internship program. For Banking Committee internships, graduate students and recent graduates are also encouraged to apply. College credits or a stipend are available. To apply for a state office internship, call toll-free at 1-800-537-0025. To apply for a Washington, D.C. internship, interested students should submit a cover letter, resume, references and a writing sample to:

- General Internship: Senator Tim Johnson; Attn: Intern Coordinator; 136 Hart SOB; Washington, DC 20510; By Fax to: 202-228-7575; by email to: Intern_Coordinator@johnson.senate.gov.

- Press Internship: Senator Tim Johnson; Attn: Todd Deutsch, Press Intern Coordinator; 136 Hart SOB; Washington, DC 20510; by fax to: 202-228-7575; by email to: Todd_Deutsch@johnson.senate.gov.

- Banking Committee Internship: Chairman Tim Johnson; Attn: Intern Coordinator; 534 Dirksen SOB; Washington, DC 20510; by fax to: 202-224-5371; by email to: internships_democratic@banking.senate.gov.

AAA Reminds Motorists That Cars Need Checkups, Too

AAA reminds motorists that cars need seasonal checkups to maintain safety and maximize operational efficiency. Regular maintenance and seasonal checkups can also help prevent unexpected repair costs in the future.

"No one wants to be stranded in the cold by a vehicle breakdown," said John Nielsen, director, AAA Approved Auto Repair. "Properly preparing your vehicle for winter driving is essential for the safety of all passengers and will greatly decrease the chances of your vehicle letting you down."

AAA recommends that motorists use a simple checklist to determine their vehicle's fall and winter maintenance needs. Many of the items on the list can be inspected by a car owner in less than an hour, but others should be performed by a certified technician.

Motorists can identify reliable, high-quality repair facilities with certified technicians by looking for the AAA Approved Auto Repair sign. These facilities must meet and maintain high professional standards for customer service, technician training, tools, equipment, warranties and cleanliness. Nearby shops can be located at AAA.com/repair.

Winter Car Care Checklist

- **Battery and Charging System** — Have the battery and charging system tested by a trained technician. A fully charged battery in good condition is required to start an engine in cold weather. AAA members can request a visit from a AAA Mobile Battery Service technician who will test their battery and replace it on-site, if necessary. AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities can also test and replace weak batteries.

- **Battery Cables and Terminals** — Make sure the battery terminals and cable ends are free from corrosion, and the connections are tight.

- **Drive Belts** — Inspect the underside of accessory drive belts for cracks or fraying. Many newer multi-rib "serpentine" belts are made of materials that do not show obvious signs of wear; replace these belts at 60,000-mile intervals.

- **Engine Hoses** — Inspect cooling system hoses for leaks, cracks or loose clamps. Also, squeeze the hoses and replace any that are

brittle or excessively spongy feeling.

- **Tire Type and Tread** — In areas with heavy winter weather, installing snow tires on all four wheels will provide the best winter traction. All-season tires work well in light to moderate snow conditions, provided they have adequate tread depth. Replace any tire that has less than 3/32-inches of tread. Uneven tire wear can indicate alignment, wheel balance or suspension problems that must be addressed to prevent further tire damage.

- **Tire Pressure** — Check tire inflation pressure more frequently in fall and winter. As the average temperature drops, so will tire pressures — typically by 1 PSI for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit. The proper tire pressure levels can be in the owner's manual or on a sticker typically located on the driver's side door jamb. Also, check the spare.

- **Air Filter** — Check the engine air filter by holding it up to a 60-watt light bulb. If light can be seen through much of the filter, it is still clean enough to work effectively. However, if light is blocked by most of the filter, replace it.
- **Coolant Levels** — Check the coolant level in the overflow tank when the engine is cold. If the level is low, add a 50/50 solution of coolant and water to maintain the necessary antifreeze capability. Test the antifreeze protection level with an inexpensive tester available at any auto parts store.

- **Lights** — Check the operation of all headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and back-up lights. Replace any burnt out bulbs.

- **Wiper Blades** — The blades should completely clear the glass with each swipe. Replace any blade that leaves streaks or misses spots. In areas with snow, consider installing winter wiper blades that wrap the blade frame in a rubber boot to reduce ice and snow buildup that can prevent good contact between the blade and the glass.

- **Washer Fluid** — Fill the windshield washer fluid reservoir with a winter cleaning solution that has antifreeze components to prevent it from freezing.

- **Brakes** — If there is any indication of a brake problem, have the system inspected by a certified technician to ensure all components are in good working order.

- **Transmission, Brake and Power Steering Fluids** — Check all fluids to ensure they are at or above the minimum safe levels.

- **Emergency Road Kit** — Carry an emergency kit equipped for winter weather. The kit should include:

- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats;
- Snow shovel;
- Flashlight with extra batteries;
- Window washer solvent;
- Ice scraper with brush;
- Cloth or roll of paper towels;
- Jumper cables;
- Extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves);
- Blankets;
- Warning devices (flares or triangles);
- Drinking water;
- Non-perishable snacks for both human and pet passengers;
- First-aid kit;
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench);
- Mobile phone and car charger pre-programmed with rescue apps and important phone numbers including family and emergency services.

Android and iPhone users can download AAA Roadside, a mobile smartphone app that lets motorists in roadside rescue situations to request help without making a phone call. The user simply enters the details of their situation and clicks an onscreen button. AAA Roadside then transmits the information, and the user's location as established by the phone's GPS technology, directly to AAA Roadside Assistance. The app also displays nearby AAA Approved Auto Repair locations so members can easily choose where to have their vehicle towed, if necessary.

AAA Membership is not required to download and use AAA apps, but is needed to take advantage of the associated member benefits such as roadside assistance and Show Your Card & Save discounts. For more information on AAA apps, visit AAA.com/Mobile.

Stay connected with AAA on the web via: Twitter.com/AAAnews; Twitter.com/AAASafety; Twitter.com/AAAauto; YouTube.com/AAA; and Facebook.com/AAAFanPage.

Corn

From Page 1

15 percent because of reduced acreage and yield. The bean production was expected to drop 35 percent, also because fewer acres were planted.

The sugar beet production was forecast to rise 11 percent from last year because of higher yield and acreage, while alfalfa hay production was forecast to be 7 percent less than 2010.

Economists have said sorghum and other crops have been giving way in plantings to higher profit crops such as corn.



Thanks to global climate change, many of the weather patterns we've grown accustomed to in the past are no longer the norm today. It seems much of the country experiences shorter than normal days of moderate spring and fall weather, with seasons simply switching from scorching sun one moment to chilly temperatures and snow the next. That means it's never too early to take a refresher course in preparing for safe winter driving.

Winter weather takes all of the usual road hazards and steps them up a notch. Slippery roadways, congestion, road rage, pedestrian traffic -- all of these situations seem magnified when the weather is poor and daylight is waning. Although winter driving may be frustrating, there are ways to prepare for the season and prevent accidents and injuries.

PREPARE

It's important to check that a vehicle is in top shape before the cold weather sets in. Pay special attention to the tires. If tires are bald or their wear is significant, that could prove hazardous on weather-slicked roads. Have tires replaced before the first snowfall. The same can be said when switching from regular performance tires to all-weather or snow tires. Be sure to change all of the tires on the car,

even if it is just a front-wheel drive vehicle.

Now is the time to also get a tune-up on the vehicle. Cold weather can make it hard for a car to perform at its best, and any problems should be eliminated before they spiral out of control. Be sure to top off any fluids in the car, especially windshield washer fluid you might need to improve visibility during a storm. Check the function of wiper blades and change them if they aren't up to snuff. Consult with a mechanic to find out if it is advisable to switch motor oil viscos-

Plan Now For Safe Winter Driving

ity during the winter to improve flow through the engine and help with cold start turnover.

It also helps to stock up on supplies should you get stranded or stuck:

- snow shovel
- scraper/brush
- tire chains
- flashlight (with extra batteries)
- abrasive material, like cat litter, sand, or salt
- jumper cables
- flares or reflective triangles
- brightly colored cloth to signal for help
- empty water-tight container with candles, matches or lighter, bottled water, and a snack
- sleeping bags or blankets, ski caps, and mittens
- first-aid supplies

SKIDDING

How best to maneuver a car when it starts to skid depends on how the vehicle handles. If the rear wheels skid, turn the steering wheel, and subsequently the front wheels, in the same direction of the skid. If the front wheels skid, take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral. Don't try to steer immediately; the skid may slow, and traction could return. Then you can steer in the direction you want to go and put the car back into drive.

Keep in mind that even with expert maneuvering it can be tricky to recover from a skid on ice. Snow tires are not infallible and may be ineffective on icy roadways.

LEAVING SPACE

One of the best things a person can do when driving in winter weather is to slow down and add much more room for reacting to roadway conditions. Driving slowly and braking slowly may help to prevent skids. Also, should a skid occur, having more room between you and another vehicle helps you to maneuver elsewhere or come to a stop without causing an accident.

When visibility is poor, leaving extra room means you can react if something suddenly veers into the path of the car or you missed seeing it through the snow and sleet.

STRANDED OR STUCK

Should the car break down or it becomes stuck in the snow, there are some things you can do. Be sure to steer or push the car to a safe location, if possible. Put up warning flares or triangles so that you are visible and leave the four-way flashers on if the battery is operable.

You can try "rocking" the car, by putting it in drive and hitting the gas, then in reverse and pressing on the accelerator to create a valley in the snow that might free the car. Use your abrasive material to provide traction. You can also attempt to shovel out the tires.

If the car is inoperable, stay in the vehicle out of harm's way and call for help on a mobile phone. Leave a window cracked open if you will be running the engine for periodic heat. The National Safety

Council says that you can run the engine for heat about once every hour, or every half hour in severe cold. Be sure to clean snow from around the end of the tail pipe to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. For extra heat, don blankets or a

sleeping bag to prevent hypothermia.

Driving in winter conditions can be exhausting and hazardous. Being prepared for common scenarios decreases risk of accidents.

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