

# Warhawk Air Museum breaks ground Tuesday

Museum slated to open at airport next spring

By Sam Bass  
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NAMPA — A groundbreaking ceremony to start construction of a new Warhawk Air Museum at the Nampa Municipal Airport will be held at 3 p.m., Tuesday.

The unique air museum will include a gift shop, offices, combination classroom, conference room and library, and catering facilities. The 20,000-square-foot building will also hold 17,000 square feet of display area.

The Warhawk Air Museum originated in Caldwell in 1989 and was created by John and Sue Paul of Boise as a way to house valuable artifacts including two WW2 Curtis P-40 fighter airplanes, a WW1 Fokker Dr-1 Triplane replica, uniforms, weapons, photos, posters, models, German and Japanese memorabilia, and books of the period.

The Pauls started with the two Curtis fighters, but people learned about the existence of the museum, and private donations started coming in not only from Idaho, but from all

## Volunteers and funds needed

To ensure the success of the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, volunteers and financial donations are critical, supporters say. Anyone interested in helping create and maintain the museum should call 454-2854.

over the world, they said.

A P-51C "Mustang" fighter plane is being restored and should be ready to fly next year. "We expect to add more aircraft and more displays and it won't be long before the new museum will be full," Sue Paul said.

Over the years, the museum filled every square foot of its hangar home and the Pauls said they needed a great deal more space than the 7,200 square feet available in Caldwell.

The move to Nampa was made "because we are ready to expand," Paul said. "We have completely outgrown the current facility. Making the move to Nampa is a positive one because it is a centrally located airport."

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Artist rendering of the planned museum