

8:30am — Santa Fe Downs' Manure on the Move

Twenty years of horse pucky finally getting spread around at former track.

It's not exactly the Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota or a top tourist spot in the City Different, but that massive manure pile at The Downs at Santa Fe is finally getting moved, according to [The New Mexican](#) newspaper.

It won't be moved *away*, but the 20-year buildup of horse manure from when The Downs was a racetrack will be spread some 4 to 5 inches thick over a 40-acre parcel on the northeast corner of the 320-acre property, then tilled into the soil to be topped with native grasses, The New Mexican reported.

Pojoaque Pueblo, which bought the racetrack in 1996 and ran races there until shutting it down in 1997, says it had little to do with the manure buildup, and has been hampered in developing the property because of the pile, Carl Potter, who manages The Downs for Pojoaque, told The New Mexican.

"The pueblo has always wanted to get rid of it," Potter told the paper. "The biggest problem has been finding places to put it."

Allen Mosley, chief executive officer of the pueblo's business ventures, said the idea for spreading the manure around came from staff of the joint city-county Solid Waste Management Agency, The New Mexican said.

The suggestion came after the pueblo asked permission to dump the remainder of the pile at the regional landfill, and someone from the County Extension Office suggested spreading it around, Mosley told the paper.

The project should be done some time in March, Mosely said.

Last August, the first major event to be held at The Downs in a decade — the 2007 Santa Fe Muzik Fest — was a critical success, but failed in its aim to bring in enough proceeds

to help remove the pile, the paper said.

In fact, the concert didn't generate a profit, but the approximately \$50,000 Muzik Fest organizer Shaun Parrish paid to rent the facility did go toward removing the waste, Mosely told The New Mexican.