

Family knows how to help revive ski slope

BOONE, Iowa (AP) — Joel Bryan thinks he knows what it takes to revive a ski slope nestled in the hills between Ogden and Boone.

If electricians and the weather cooperate, Seven Oaks Recreation will open around Dec. 1. His family's corporation that operates Fun Valley near Montezuma will run it.

"We're going to move fast,"

Bryan said. "After operating a business at Fun Valley for 27 years, we pretty much have an idea of what we need to do."

The corporation, made up of Bryan's grandmother, Kay Bryan, and her seven children, have made several changes to the former Ski Valley.

The most obvious addition is the

massive chair lift, bought from a Kentucky ski area that was closing. There also will be high-speed tow rope, aimed especially at snow-board enthusiasts, and a slower rope tow.

They've laid about 11,000 feet of electrical line and about 5,000 feet of water lines to supply the five snow-making machines that will be added to the three Ski Valley already had.