Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

OPB leads state in going digital

PORTLAND — Oregon Public Broadcasting enters the digital age this month as the first broadcaster in the state to install a digital transmitter.

The transmitter will distribute test signals in preparation for broadcasting digital signals to the public early next

The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that all television stations in the country change from the current analog system to digital broadcast.

Over the next decade, broad-

casters will operate two channels, their present one and the new digital one, until the public has made the changeover to digital televisions.

Viewers can either replace their television sets with widescreen digital models or buy converter boxes for existing sets.

The benefits of digital television include high-definition television, CD-quality sound, data transmission and the ability to broadcast more than one channel at a time.

"Digital television is a tool we can use to achieve our mission,

to be Oregon's most accessible learning resource," said Maynard Orme, president and chief executive officer of OPB. "It gives us the flexibility to broad cast preschool programming, classroom videos, adult learning and public affairs programming all at the same time.

OPB, celebrating its 75th year, is a statewide network of community-supported learning resources, including OPB Television, an affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service, and OPB Radio, an affiliate of National Public Radio.

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