Pulitzer-Prize-Winning Author Taylor Branch to Speak at Summit High

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Taylor Branch, historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author will present â€œMyths and Miracles from the King Yearsâ€• at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2007, at Summit High School in Bend. Tickets go on sale December 1 at Barnes & Noble and The Bulletin, Redmond Chamber of Commerce and Paulina Springs Books in Sisters. General admission is $15.

Earlier this year Branch, Pulitzer-Prize-winning and bestselling author, concluded his exhaustive history of the civil rights movement and Martin Luther Kingâ€™s heroic role, with the release of â€œAt Canaanâ€™s Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68.â€• Epic in scope and impact, Branch's chronicle definitively captures one of the nation's most crucial passages.

â€œI think those years meant an America that enlarged freedom, when it didnâ€™t really think that it could, and discovered all kinds of optimism that had been kind of tamped down after World War II,â€• Branch told interviewer David Gergen. â€œIt took a lot of courage for people to believe that something good could happen. This is a story about ordinary people from all ranks, from presidents down to cripples, who risked their lives to enlarge freedom. And we have inherited a much better country for it.â€•

Branch has won nearly every major literary award for his trilogy, including the National Book Critics Circle Award and Best book of the Year. â€œParting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63â€• won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1988. â€œPillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65â€• was published in 1998.

The author of two other nonfiction books and a novel, he is a former staff member of the Washington Monthly, Harperâ€™s and Esquire. He was born in Atlanta and presently lives in Baltimore with his wife Christina Macy.