

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 "Myths and Miracles from the King Years" 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 King's heroic role, with the release of "At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68." Epic in scope and impact, Branch's chronicle definitively captures one of the nation's most crucial passages.

"I think those years meant an America that enlarged freedom, when it didn't really think that it could, and discovered all kinds of optimism that had been kind of tamped down after World War II," Branch told interviewer David Gergen. "It 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."

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

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