Actress to speak at Destiny lunch

Viola Davis, the award-winning actress and star of How to Get Away With Murder, is speaking Friday at the 16th annual Destiny Awards luncheon at St. Philip's School & Community Center. She will be interviewed by WFAA-TV (Channel 8) reporter Rebecca Lopez.

The school will also give benefactors Abigail and Todd Williams its first Humanitarian Award for their efforts to link diverse communities. Sherrelle Evans-Jones and Paula Mitchell are co-chairing the sold-out fundraiser with honorary chairs Pat and Emmitt Smith.

$50,000: Nancy Ann and Ray Hunt.
$25,000: Cindy and Howard Rachofsky and Mona and David Munson.
$10,000: Parish Restaurants Ltd. and Williams Family Foundation.

To learn more, visit stphilips600.org.

Honors for Millers

The legendary Robert Miller, who penned this column from 1985 to mid-2015, and his wife, Shirley, will be honored Saturday evening at the second annual Aging Mind Foundation Gala presented by the Joule.

Chair Barbara Daseke and her committee will auction three deluxe experiences at the party: a three-day weekend at the Kentucky Derby sponsored by Yum, a five-course wine dinner prepared by the Joule at the home of Laree and Ben Fischer in Museum Tower, and a four-day hunting expedition donated by Lane Mitchell at a retreat on Togo Island in Mississippi.

Additional supporters include honorary chairs LeeAnn and Alan White and Lana and Barry Andrews, host committee chair Maxine Trowbridge, emcees Jane McGarry and tribute host Ron Corning.

Acclaimed tenor James Valenti will perform.

The Aging Mind Foundation supports research, treatment, education and advocacy with respect to dementia.

To purchase $750 tickets, contact Katherine Mathes Bullock at 214-563-9465 or email katherine@mathesandco.com. To learn more, visit agingmindfoundation.org.

HighGround

At age 86 and with a bankroll of nearly $2 billion, the Baptist Foundation of Texas rechristened itself Wednesday as HighGround Advisors.

The new name will make it easier to market the firm's financial management services to a wider range of charities, explained president and CEO Jeff Smith.

"The Baptist name has some negative connotation in the marketplace as a whole... just with some of the stances the Baptists have taken," he said.

"HighGround has biblical underpinnings as well as military concepts, so as we try to grow the business outside the Baptist world, we have a name that will resonate on both sides."

The investment and trust services company also changed its tax-exempt designation from a group that primarily benefits the Baptist Convention of Texas to a 501(c)3 public charity, Smith noted.

Smith sees opportunity for growth in its for-profit subsidiary, which was formerly called Concord Trust Co. and has been renamed HighGround Trust Co. It handles 1,000 trusts and annuities for a variety of clients including Baylor University, the University of North Texas Foundation and NATA Research & Education Foundation.

"Most of those relationships have come by virtue of someone who has worked at a Baptist institution and left and came back to ask for our services," Smith explained.

To learn more, visit bfbx.org.