

# Corpus Christi Caller Times

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## Scholarship winner to go into nursing

He has plans to start out at Del Mar College

BY ISRAEL SAENZ  
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As Wilson Lenhart walks the halls of Moody High School, he seems to know everyone. One teacher describes him as pleasantly gregarious.

Those who know him say he has many friends because he genuinely cares about other people, whether it's being supportive during high school drama or giving work advice to a friend. His support of others and academic achievement while facing his own challenges have earned him a \$5,000 Horatio Alger scholarship.

Lenhart, 18, graduates this weekend with more than 2,000 Corpus Christi Independent School District students. Other area districts also are holding commencement ceremonies this weekend.

**The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Inc. distributes** scholarships to high school students who demonstrate financial need, maintain a level of academic achievement and overcome adversity. He applied for the scholarship in October and learned in January he had earned it.

Lenhart, graduating with a 3.7 grade-point average, plans to attend Del

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Mar College and stay close to his family for now before transferring to the University of Texas. During the past academic year, he has received some real-world practice in the field he is interested in — nursing. His grandmother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the fall as he began his senior year.

After learning of his grandmother's diagnosis, he arranged with his father to visit and help with her daily needs. Throughout the past year, Lenhart has done much of the same duties for her that he has working as a nursing intern — cleaning, feeding and helping with her medication.

"Her lifetime goal was to see me graduate," he said. "Now she gets to."

Lenhart, whose parents divorced when he was 8, said he also was inspired by watching his mother raise him and his younger sister on her own.

"After seeing that, I was like, 'I can do anything,'" he said. He has transferred that philosophy to others.

Julia Samaniego, Lenhart's best friend for the past several years, said she was apprehensive about her duties during a nurs-

ing home internship until Lenhart gave her a friendly push.

"I wasn't really sure if I wanted to do it at first," said Samaniego, 18. "But I knew I could depend on him to always be there."

His English teacher, Cheryl Flint, said Wilson's caring nature sets him apart from other high achievers.

"What Wilson has is this overarching commitment to people around him," she said. "He holds his family obligations very dear, and for everything that has gone on in his life, he is very focused."

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**Moody High School student Wilson Lenhart demonstrates to health class students how to prepare a vial-type needle used for insulin injections. Lenhart is the winner of a Horatio Alger scholarship.**

George Gonzalez  
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