

PUBLIC SAFETY ● AN EMOTIONAL SEARCH

Slide victim found dead

■ **Highway tragedy:** While searchers find the body of 5-year-old Tory Davis, they still are looking for 27-year-old Tim Grace.

By Aviva L. Brandt
The Associated Press

WENATCHEE — Heavy-equipment operators wiped tears from their eyes as the body of a 5-year-old boy was pulled from a crumpled school bus at the bottom of a rock slide Saturday.

Search crews continued to hunt for the body of a man missing in another part of the slide that dumped tons of debris on a gravel pit and the southbound lanes of U.S. 97A beside the Columbia River. A 200-foot stretch of the southbound lanes was buried as deep as 30 feet a few miles north of this central Washington town.

The highway was closed for nearly 30 miles, from just north of Wenatchee to near Chelan. Traffic was rerouted along the east side of the river on U.S. 97.

Burlington Northern also closed its railroad track along the highway.

Gary Greene of Spokane said the missing man was his son-in-law, Tim Grace, 27, of Spokane, daytime foreman for Lloyd Logging of Twisp, a subcontractor at the gravel pit owned by Morrill Asphalt of Wenatchee. Lloyd Logging had been crushing rock at the site.

Grace, previously misidentified as the quarry manager, and his wife of three years, Nadine, 26, have a 3-year-old daughter and custody of Nadine's 5-year-old daughter by a previous marriage, Greene said.

"He's a real gritty guy with a great sense of humor," Greene said, fighting back tears. "We're going to miss him."

Four dump trucks were moved to block the view of camera crews and a weeping Di-



The Associated Press

NEAR WENATCHEE: Workers peer into a converted school bus where the body of a 5-year-old boy was recovered Saturday.

ana Davis when the body of her son, Tory, was located shortly after noon with help from search dogs.

Shawn Ballard of Ballard Ambulances, summoned to take the body to Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee, said it was too covered by dirt for the type of injuries to be apparent.

"There were a lot of teary eyes up there, a lot of big-equipment operators looking red-eyed," Ballard said.

The mother, who worked at the gravel pit and witnessed the slide Friday morning, was led away by relatives and friends.

Undersheriff Daryl Mathena said barely two feet of the bus was exposed.

Grace was last seen in the control room of a rock crusher at the work site, sheriff's deputy Mike Harum said.

The cause of the slide remained undetermined. Dick Anderson, director of the county roads department, said it amounted to at least 1 million cubic feet of sand, gravel and boulders, roughly 100,000 truckloads.

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