

Search continues for man in slide

By 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 searched until 10 p.m. Saturday 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. The search was to resume at 7 a.m. today. 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 Diana 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 the bus was barely 2 feet high.