

## Federal judge sets June 28 for final disposition of case involving Indian Head Rock

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A federal judge has set June 28 for what is expected to be the final disposition of the case involving the Indian Head Rock removed from Kentucky waters by an Ohio history buff and others three years ago.

A hearing is set for 11 a.m. that day to resolve matters about returning the rock from Ohio to Kentucky, said Mike Curtis, an Ashland, Ky., lawyer representing Steve Shaffer of Ironton.

"After that, hopefully, Kentucky can have its rock back," Curtis said.

U.S. District Judge Henry R. Wilhoit Jr. of the

Ashland district on April 22 ordered a lawsuit involving the rock stayed after the two states reached a deal. He gave both sides 60 days to settle the issue of how safely to load the rock, stored in the Portsmouth city garage, and unload it in Kentucky.

No further extension would be granted, the judge said, since the matter "has been pending for quiet some time."

After criminal charges brought by Kentucky against Shaffer were dropped, Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway filed a lawsuit in Wilhoit's court against Shaffer and the others, seeking to have the rock returned.

Wilhoit's April 22 order remanded that case from the docket and stayed all proceedings long enough to allow the parties to resolve the transport issue.

Greenup County Judge/Executive Bobby Carpenter said last week arrangements are underway to bring the rock from Portsmouth to the county garage in Greenup, where it will be stored until the city of South Shore can prepare a place to exhibit it.

"It belongs to the people of South Shore, since it came from the river down there," Carpenter said.

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