



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**

& Economic Opportunity

**OFFICE OF TOURISM**

Bruce Rauner, Governor

**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\***

**STATE TOURISM OFFICIALS TO VISIT CASEY TO HONOR ILLINOIS MAKER; RECOGNIZE BIG THINGS IN A SMALL TOWN AS PART OF ILLINOIS MADE PROGRAM**

*Illinois Tourism celebrates artisans, products and experiences unique to the state*

**WHAT:** The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Tourism is visiting central and southern Illinois to honor official Illinois makers as part of its *Illinois Made* initiative. Tourism officials are honoring makers, creators, and artisans unique to Illinois to inspire and promote travel throughout the state.

Launched this summer, *Illinois Made* is an ongoing program that highlights the depth and diversity of Illinois' makers' communities to encourage people to extend their travel beyond a day trip by exploring local businesses and nearby attractions.

Tourism officials will visit Big Things in a Small Town in Casey to present the official *Illinois Made* plaque and showcase how each maker is being featured through online video content, interactive maps or *Illinois Made*-inspired travel ideas on [www.EnjoyIllinois.com/Illinoismade](http://www.EnjoyIllinois.com/Illinoismade). Big Things in a Small Town joins ten other makers being honored by Illinois Tourism the week of September 26.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 30, 2016 / 11:00 AM

**WHERE:** Big Things in a Small Town  
108 East Main Street, Casey, IL 62420

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*The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.*