

Make Me Smart August 2, 2021 transcript

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Kai Ryssdal: Wait for the music. There we go. Although maybe we don't have to wait for music. Hey everybody, I'm Kai Ryssdal, welcome back to Make Me Smart, making today, as we always do and as best we can, make sense.

Kimberly Adams: And I'm Kimberly Adams, thank you for joining us. It is what did we miss Monday, which means we're going to go back and do the usual news fix, but also tell you about some of the stories you maybe missed over the weekend. And then we'll wrap it up with a little bit of a make me smile. So, let's get going. Kai?

Kai Ryssdal: Let's get going. I'll go first. And I'll confess, I tried to stay away from the news this weekend, so I don't have a lot of what did we miss other than headline-y stuff.

Kimberly Adams: Good for you.

Kai Ryssdal: Oh, I'm trying. I'm gearing up for vacation. You know, I mean, come Thursday, come Wednesday night, at the end of this podcast, I am shutting it all down. I'm taking evil social media off my feed. I'm taking my email off my feed. I mean, everything's coming off my phone. Anyway--

Kimberly Adams: You know the last time I tried to do that was January, January the fifth was the last time I did that.

Kai Ryssdal: Oh no, really?

Kimberly Adams: Yeah. Yeah. So I was on my way to the vet with my cat in blissful ignorance, until I saw, like, police vehicles and buses full of National Guard streaming down the street and my mother calling me frantically. Anyway, side story. Go ahead.

Kai Ryssdal: Wow. Wow. No, that's a good story, that's a good story.

Kimberly Adams: Logical detachment.

Kai Ryssdal: Yeah, I'm trying. I'm trying. Anyway. So I just, I want to point out a couple of things about the eviction moratorium and the expiration there of Congress, the house specifically, but because the Senate was working on some other stuff. But Congress let it lapse on the 31st. And

it lapsed for a lot of reasons, not least of which is that Congress and the White House couldn't really get its act together. Now, you may or may not remember that the way this goes is that the CDC had imposed a public health eviction moratorium. They were sued. And the Supreme Court let it stand, let the eviction moratorium stand, except it also said, come the 31st of July, no more extensions, we're done. And so we've known this deadline is coming for a long time. And the interesting part of the news to me now is the way the White House and the Congress, specifically Speaker Pelosi and the White House, are pointing fingers at each other. The White House is saying we really want everything to be done in accordance with the law. And Speaker Pelosi is saying we call on the White House to act. And I'm like, no, the supreme court already said you can't. And it seems to me, and I led my news fixes on Friday with a hit parade of failures, this is another failure of the Congress. They've known this one was coming. 15 million people are at risk for eviction, some of them like today, and they let it happen. And I just, it's important that that not go unremarked upon. That's my news.

Kimberly Adams: Yeah. And it really comes down to where folks are choosing to spend their political capital, you know, at the moment, and not on this apparently. I, you know, I, I hear this, you know, every time we do these stories about the eviction moratorium, we get all these notes and I know you do too, from people who are like small scale landlords like, well, what are we supposed to do? But what kills me about this story in particular is that there was \$45 billion that Congress appropriated to help people with their back rent, help landlords, and everybody bridge the gap, right. And only \$3 billion of it has even made it out the door because of a lack of systems or lack of interest and red tape and all this stuff. And so, right, I was seeing a story today that there's just like a deluge of calls to legal aid companies, legal aid services, and all these other state offices, as people, they know this money is there, but they can't figure out how to get it. And it's wild.

Kai Ryssdal: Yep, it's crazy. It's, it's--and so look, sorry, let me back up for a minute--since, since you did point that out. Congress did appropriate 45ish billion dollars, and it hasn't gotten out. So it's not like Congress has done nothing. But I think when people were in extremis, they failed to act. And I think that's the point I wanted to make. Sorry. Thank you for the context. I appreciate that.

Kimberly Adams: Yeah, and I mean, the moratorium is different than the money. You know, it's one thing to say that there's money available, it's another thing to say you can't put people out. Okay, so mine is sort of a mixture of what did we miss and, and, and the news, which is that, you know, we finally seem to have hit 70% of vaccination in this country, which is a month late, later than the Biden administration had hoped, but still a really good number. A lot of people are looking around at the spiking cases and seeing these tragic stories about people who, you know, chose not to get vaccinated and are dying, and that is apparently fueling some vaccines. And I will direct people to a story that came out last week in Politico about my home state of Missouri and our wonderful lack of vaccinations, but it's about the Lake of the Ozarks, which is a very popular tourist destination in Missouri. And I remember a lot of my friends and people going down there for, you know, weekends and stuff when I was younger. And it's just like party town, and people were sort of--the reporter who went down there, you know, saw bartenders and

tourists and lots of other folks kind of gleefully wearing it as a mask of, badge of honor—I say mask of honor, badge of honor--that they weren't wearing masks when they weren't vaccinated. And I am, I was out covering a story this weekend here in DC and was interviewing a healthcare worker who actually told me that she was getting ready to quit her job because they were about to start mandating vaccines. And she didn't want to get one. And, you know, you and Molly have talked about this quite a bit on the show about sort of how we, we talk to people who don't want to get the vaccine and how we talk about people who don't want to get the vaccine. And it's, it, I was really stuck kind of in the moment when she said that, because I was like, what, what am I supposed to say here? Because it's like, please don't do that, and do I take a step back? You know, and I was, I was wearing a mask and the, you know, she was saying, oh, you know, we just have to keep protecting ourselves, she says to me with her mask underneath her nose. So it's news fix that we finally hit 70%. We still got a long way to go. I saw comments from Dr. Fauci today that, you know, we're probably not going to go back down to the severe lockdowns, but we're definitely not out of the woods yet. And I think we do all, myself included, need to think about how we keep communicating this moving forward as, as you and Molly have talked about with the really interesting Twitter thread that is now, I believe, an article in *The Atlantic* about how you talk to people who've been frauded. Victims of fraud.

Kai Ryssdal: Yeah, totally, totally. And you know, the thing about it is that this all gets petty and personal and in a big bad hurry, because you're looking somebody who's not wearing a mask or has it down around their chin or whatever, and you sort of instantaneously--maybe I'm imposing on the listening public here--but my gut reaction is no, come on, man. What's the matter with you? And that doesn't work. That's the problem. You know, that just doesn't work. Yeah, so, anyway. So that's it. Those are my big newsy things. I don't know if you got anything on the wood you missed, because it was all sort of, you know, a blur.

Kimberly Adams: We actually have an infrastructure bill.

Kai Ryssdal: That's huge. Well, that's true. Totally true. Totally true.

Kimberly Adams: Now it's like, actually, legit infrastructure week for once. You know, after all of our many, many years of false starts, but we'll, we'll see how that goes. But, you know, I also, I was spending time with my nephew this weekend, so I'd had tried to not be too deep in the news either. So you all tell us what, what, what we missed.

Kai Ryssdal: That's right.

Kimberly Adams: Send us all sorts of messages.

Kai Ryssdal: And the way to do that, of course, is makemesmart@marketplace.org. Hit us up. Juan Carlos, do that thing where you push that button and the music plays.

Kimberly Adams: Yeah, that thing.

Kai Ryssdal: That thing.

Kimberly Adams: What's making you smile, Kai?

Kai Ryssdal: I got a good one. So, alright. I don't know. You decide. You go first. Go ahead.

Kimberly Adams: Well, I'll go first because it's about something that's happening near you. Which is jet pack guy. What is this?

Kai Ryssdal: Cray cray.

Kimberly Adams: So apparently there's some person--and interesting it's jet pack guy, but you know, who knows--there is a person in a jetpack flying over Los Angeles and Federal Aviation officials say the FBI is investigating. Federal Aviation officials and the FBI are investigating to figure out who this person in a jet pack around Los Angeles is, you know, just sort of zooming around. And apparently American Airlines pilots saw this person last year flying about 3000 feet around Los Angeles International Airport. And six weeks later, somebody else in a commercial flight saw them and deciding this week is enough, I'm reading here from the *New York Times* article about this, the sighting this week was enough to draw warnings from aviation officials and another inquiry by federal investigators who have now looked into several reports of someone in a jetpack flying around Los Angeles. Have you seen jetpack person? Is it you?

Kai Ryssdal: I have not but it is crazy. That's right, it's me. I'm gonna turn myself into the FAA after we hang up on this podcast. It's just so stupidly dangerous. I mean, super cool and yay, but so stupidly dangerous. And also there's eleventy-thousand other places in the Greater Los Angeles metropolitan area where you can do this and not put yourself and conceivably hundreds of other people in danger. So just stop. Just don't do this, please.

Kimberly Adams: So now I feel bad about it being my make me smile.

Kai Ryssdal: No, look, it's cray cray. Like, there are people on jetpacks, what? But, but yeah, don't do this. Okay. Okay, so mine is Simone Biles, who, as we heard, I think this morning, frankly, I get all out of whack with the Olympics and timing everything, but we heard recently that she is going to compete in the balance beam finals tomorrow in gymnastics, which, honestly, I really hope she's back and, and in the right frame of mind to do this and not just doing it because of pressure. I don't think she is because honestly, she's demonstrated her strength in staying out so far. But I just, I want her to be tip top. But one of the things we're going to see her do is this thing called a wolf turn on the beam. And there I was, three days ago, watching the Olympics and my 20-year-old son said, yeah, dad, you know, the wolf turn is really difficult to do. And I'm like, well, yeah, it is, but, and then he said, oh, it's also really important and valuable and all this jazz. Yeah, well, all of it's difficult to do. Anyway, Vox is out today with the physics behind the wolf turn. So the wolf turn is you squat down, you put one leg out, and you spin on your balanced foot, on the foot that is still in the squat. Crazy difficult. And Simone Biles is going to do that tomorrow, probably, on a four-inch piece of wood that's four feet up in the air. And I

will be watching and I hope she does really well. But I also hope she's just really careful. That's it.

Kimberly Adams: And this Vox video that you link to about this is super cool, because they have like a physicist like breaking down.

Kai Ryssdal: An actual physicist, yes. Yes.

Kimberly Adams: You know, the angles and what it means about like mass and inertia and all these things. And I was just like, wow. And I love that he makes it his job to do the physics of gymnastics. That's--and other sports--which is just great. So really interesting video.

Kai Ryssdal: Super cool. Super cool. And I am the kid who got a C in physics in high school for whatever that's worth, just, you know, for the record. I thought it was important to disclose that.

Kimberly Adams: I don't, we didn't even have physics in my high school, but you know, gotta, yeah. Okay, that is it for today. So, tomorrow--I don't want to start waxing about high school, it wasn't a great time for me, Kai.

Kai Ryssdal: Same, same, same. I didn't like it.

Kimberly Adams: Alright, tomorrow though, we're taking a deep dive in on the national debt, which, you know, is always relevant but it's so fascinating how the narrative around that changes depending on who's in power and who's talking. So we're going to talk about the debt ceiling drama, why the federal debt matters, and how closely we should pay attention to it. And so if you have any questions about this topic, or any others, you can send us an email or a voice memo. We're at makemesmart@marketplace.org.

Kai Ryssdal: Or you can use a telephone and call us, leave us a voicemail. Our number is 508-276-278. 508-UB-SMART, smart. Just dial those numbers. And you can leave us a little voicemail. And there you go.

Kimberly Adams: That's never gonna stop being entertaining to me, UB-SMART.

Kai Ryssdal: Oh, no, I think it's great.

Kimberly Adams: Make Me Smart is produced and directed by Marisa Cabrera. Today's program was engineered by Juan Carlos Torrado.

Kai Ryssdal: Bridget Bodnar is the senior producer around here, the executive director of on demand is Sitara Nieves. There are a zillion other people that work in marketplace who helped get this and everything else on the air. We just don't have time here to credit them because they get credits elsewhere. That's what happens, me and Kimberly and Molly and Reema and

Marielle and David and all those other people, we have to find jobs. Everybody else does all the stuff.

Kimberly Adams: Does all the work and we just sort of stay here.

Kai Ryssdal: I'm, I'm fond of saying my job is to speak my mother tongue into a microphone. And there you go.

Kimberly Adams: Hey, but with flair!

Kai Ryssdal: Sometimes.