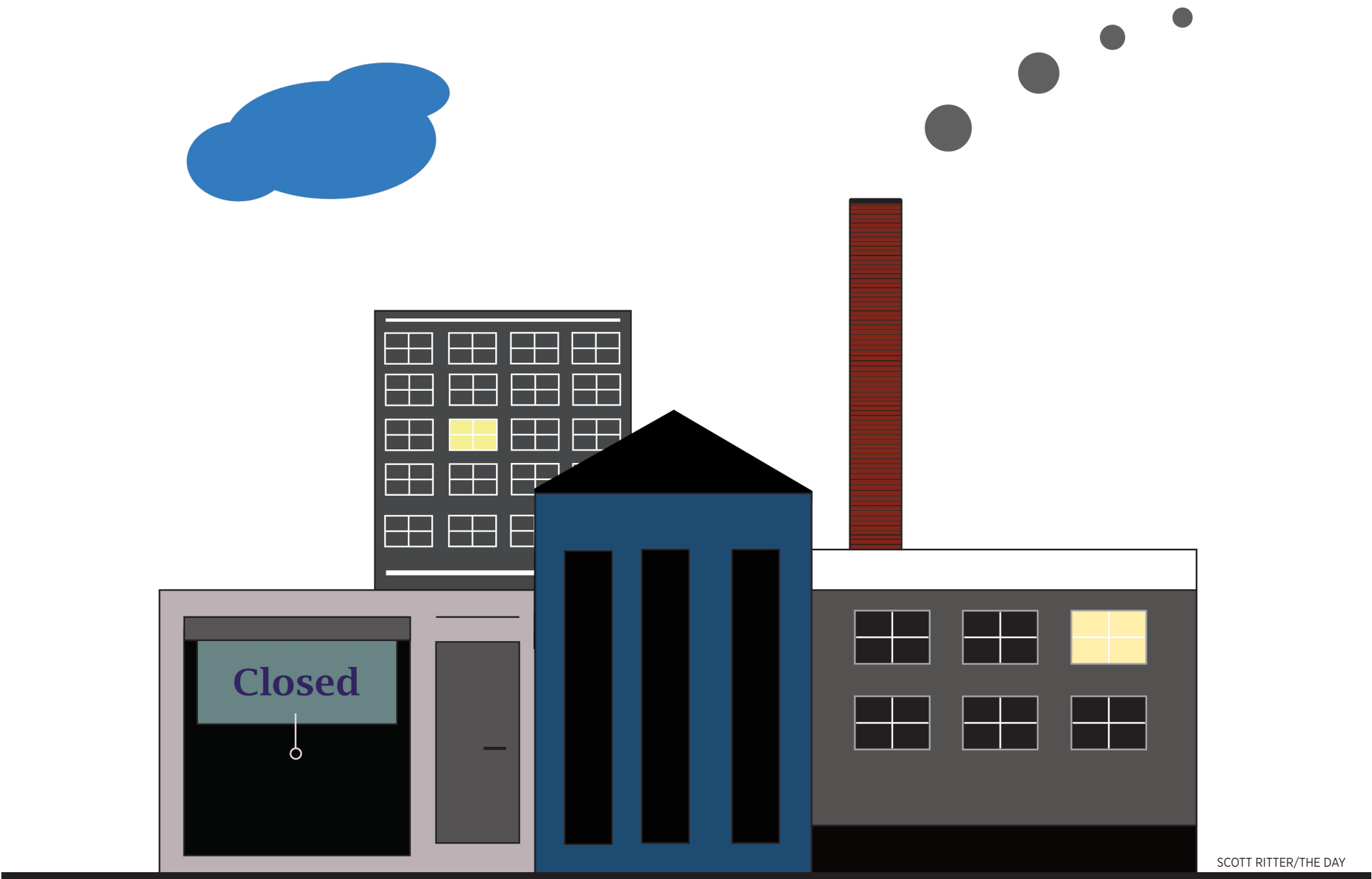


BUSINESS

Perspective: Are Democrats making the same mistake they made in 2016? Are they again assuming Donald Trump will be easy to defeat? If so, they’re wrong again, writes a political analyst. **B3**

Do Democrats still ‘believe all women’? **Page B4**

COMBATING THE CORONAVIRUS



Where do we go from here?

What you need to know about returning to work

By **KARLA L. MILLER**
The Washington Post

THE PUSH TO REOPEN the economy is accelerating. After seven weeks of social distancing and working from home, many Americans are heading back to work — and many employees and consumers are anxious about their safety.

Some states are pushing to reopen. Some companies are calling employees back to work after receiving loans to cover losses related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which was enacted in the Cares Act and given additional funding last week, those business loans can be forgiven entirely if companies do not lay off any employees or rehire employees that they have already layoff. At least 75% of the loan has to be spent

on payroll for the loan to be forgiven.

Here are some common concerns as Americans head back to work.

Please note none of this is legal advice, and your outcome may vary depending on your situation. You may need to consult legal counsel.

Q: Do I have to return to work if I am pregnant or have a health condition that places me at higher risk if I am exposed to the coronavirus?

A: Try to obtain documentation from a health-care provider that you are especially vulnerable and at high risk, and that your health care provider recommends self-quarantine. Once you have done that, your options include:

■ Asking your employer to grant you reasonable accommodations (such as

SEE THINGS PAGE B2

How some companies thrive in a viral crisis

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
and **ANNE DINNOCENZIO**
Associated Press

WHEN THE coronavirus struck the United States hard last month, 22-year-old entrepreneur David Zamarin knew his company needed a Plan B — fast. As the economy essentially shut down, demand for his stain-resistant coatings was sure to drop.

So Zamarin decided to retool his company, DetraPel, in Framingham, Mass., to start making disinfectants to help fight the virus’s spread. Within weeks, “we completely changed our whole system.”

Sales of the DetraPel eco-Cleaner & Disinfectant have been strong, he said, and Zamarin expects to produce the cleaner even after the health crisis has passed.

“I don’t want this to be a one-time thing,” he said.

“I don’t want to capitalize on this to make short-term money.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an epic catastrophe for American business. Economic life is all but frozen. Stores are idle. Sales have sunk as people isolate at home, slash spending on autos and appliances and halt shopping trips, restaurant meals and movie outings.

Many iconic retailers are reeling. Gap warns it may run out of cash. Neiman Marcus and J.C. Penney could be headed for bankruptcy protection.

Yet by dint of circumstance, resourcefulness or just plain luck, some companies have positioned themselves to withstand, even thrive, in the crisis. The most fortunate work in sectors mostly shielded from damage, like pharma-

SEE LUCK PAGE B2

The Main Street faces of the stock rebound

By **SARAH PONCZEK**
Bloomberg

BACK ON MARCH 23, it seemed like stocks would never stop falling. Congress was struggling to pass stimulus, coronavirus cases were climbing, futures were pinned to their bottommost tick and \$10 trillion in value had vanished.

Meanwhile in Northern Virginia, Nicole Kelleher was opening her very first brokerage account. Little did she know, the S&P 500 was about to surge 30%.

The romance novel writer and administrative aide at George Mason University spread \$5,000 across Peloton Interactive, Fitbit, Trivago and Dropbox, among others, on the Robinhood Financial app. Her husband, a restaurant executive, told her she needed some real estate. So Kelleher bought shares of MFA Financial.

Five weeks later, the portfolio is up almost 12%.

On their own, Kelleher’s purchases don’t amount to much. But combined with similar decisions by tiny investors around the country, the buying represents a formidable force that has helped the market claw back more than half the ground lost in its fastest bear-market drop. A trio of giant retail brokerages, ETrade Financial Corp., TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., and Charles Schwab Corp., each saw record sign-ups in the three months ending in March, with much of it coming at the depths of the swoon.

“I’m a complete noob when it comes to stocks,” the mother of high school senior twin boys said while sheltering at home. “It’s not thousands and thousands of dollars that I invested,

SEE SMALL PAGE B2

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE PLUNGES AMID JOB LOSS

Washington — U.S. consumer confidence plunged in April as millions lost their jobs, with an index that monitors attitudes about current business and work conditions dropping by the largest amount on record.

The Conference Board said its confidence index tumbled to a reading of 86.9, down from 118.8 in March. The index is composed of consumers’ assessment of present conditions and expectations about the future.

The present conditions index slumped from 166.7, to 76.4, a 90-point drop that was the largest on record. The expectations index, based on the future outlook, improved slightly from 86.8 in March to 93.8 in April.

— Associated Press

Elon Musk launches into expletive-laden rant, calling quarantine measures ‘fascist’

Elon Musk launched into an expletive-laden rant on Tesla’s earnings call last week, calling shelter-in-place orders “fascist” and demanding political officials “give people back their g--- d--- freedom.”

“To say that they cannot leave their house and they will be arrested if they do, this is fascist,” he said, before the call abruptly cut out. “This is not Democratic - this is not freedom.”

The company was forced to shut down its factory in Fremont, Calif., just as it was ramping up production for its Model Y, the crossover vehicle it expects to be its best-selling product. Musk has been a vocal critic of coronavirus measures on social media, tweeting “FREE AMERICA NOW.”

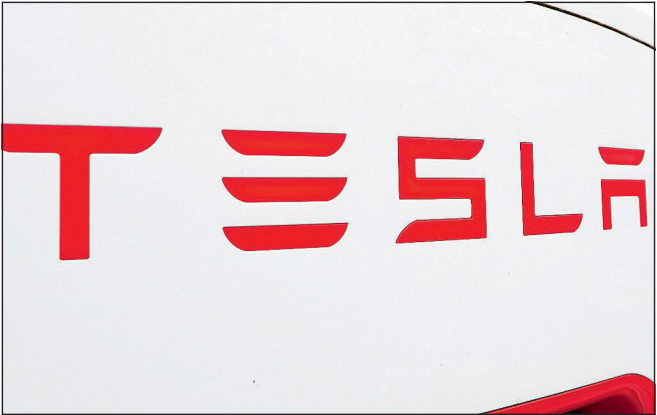
On the call, Musk called the coronavirus an “unexpected roundhouse” kick that “came out of nowhere.” He dropped an

f-bomb in describing what he saw as “forcibly imprisoning” people in their homes “against [their] constitutional rights,” adding, it’s “not why people came to America.”

The comments followed Tesla posting a slight profit Wednesday, a lukewarm signal as worries mounted about the electric carmaker’s trajectory amid the global pandemic. The company said first-quarter profit came in at \$16 million, down compared with the past two consecutive quarters. In the same quarter a year ago, the company reported a \$702 million loss. The company’s nearly \$6 billion in quarterly revenue was up 32 percent year over year.

The company in early April already reported a record first quarter for production and deliveries of its vehicles lineup, consisting of the Models S, X, 3 and Y.

-- The Washington Post



Tesla’s sales of its increasingly popular electric cars got off to a fast start in the year, even though the company had to slam the brakes in March 2020 because of worldwide efforts to contain the pandemic.