

DEB HERO

Fire extinguished before much damage

Scottville Fire
Chief Dale Larr
examines the
damage in Beth
Clemensen's
basement
where the fire
was started
Friday.



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DAILY NEWS

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SHERMAN TWP. — An electric fire damaged a Sugar Grove Road home Thursday afternoon but was extinguished before it could do much harm.

"It could have been a lot worse. It's lucky someone spotted it or it could have been up in the walls," Scottville Fire Chief Dale Larr said while examining the scene.

"I'm just happy the whole house didn't burn down," said homeowner Beth Clemensen.

Larr said the fire at 213 E. Sugar Grove Road, which was reported about 3 p.m., was caused by a problem in an electric line to an overhead light in Clemensen's basement. He pointed to a charred floor joist and said it was burning orange when fire-

fighters first arrived.

"It was found early enough that we could put it out," he said.

Clemensen was at a doctor's appointment when the fire was discovered by Debbie Daugherty and Mary Wolf, who were putting the finishing touches on cleaning Clemensen's home when Daugherty smelled smoke.

She had removed a bathroom floor register cover a few minutes earlier to vacuum it, noticing nothing out of the ordinary at the time.

Daugherty continued cleaning, then she smelled smoke and



Debbie Daugherty

began checking where it might be coming from. She returned to the bathroom, where she saw smoke was "pouring" from the register.

"I was like, whoa!" Daugherty said.

That's when she called 911, and she and Wolf grabbed their cleaning supplies and left the home, grateful to see first responders and firefighters arrive.

Daugherty, through her Helping Hands business, has been cleaning for Clemensen for about a year and a half. She said she is glad she hadn't already left the home when the fire started so she was able to call 911 in time for damage to be minimized.

"It has a lot of family value to it," Daugherty said of the home.

Clemensen said her grandfather, George Lorenz, built the house in the 1940s.