

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

After entering a “no contest” plea in Perkins County Court on Wednesday, Jan. 27, Benjamin J. Pelster, 33, of rural Elsie was found guilty of motor vehicle homicide by Judge Edward D. Steenburg.

Pelster was ordered by Steenburg to contact the local probation officer to begin a pre-sentence investigation.

A court date of Wednesday, Feb. 24, has been set for sentencing.

The charge of vehicular homicide was made against Pelster following a July 13, 2009 accident two-and-a-half miles east of Elsie which resulted in the death of 28-year-old Debra Palser.

Palser’s vehicle was westbound on Highway 23 when it was struck by a farm sprayer driven by Pelster who entered the highway from the north, failing to yield.

Pelster faces a maximum of six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or both. He is represented by Attorney Robert Lindemeier.