WILLMAR IMMIGRATION – NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

FILL IN THE GAPS:

BRIAN WILLIAMS (Anchor) – Now to our continuing series of reports on immigration in this country called “Whose America” at a time of increasing political tension over immigration in the US we found one small community that is embracing a major (1) _____ of immigrants. Our report tonight, from NBC’s Kevin Tibbles:

KEVIN TIBBLES – At this year’s Christmas (2) ______ Latino Lutherans invite local Catholics to join in. Just another sign of how Willmar Minnesota’s varied cultures (3) ______ to include one another.

IDALIA LEUZE – “We have decided that this has to work”.

KEVIN TIBBLES – Like most small towns in America this one’s main street has its general store and coffee shop, but (4) ______ in-between the new face of Willmar, a Somali grocery, a Mexican bakery, a Latino (5) ______ store. There are thirty seven different ethnicities in this city of just eighteen thousand. Immigrants (6) ______ twenty percent of the population.

LES HEITKE – They’re also going to see East Africans, Somalies, Sudanese, people from Bosnia, people from the Pacific (7) _____.

KEVIN TIBBLES – Many make a middle-class (8) _____ up to thirteen dollars an hour at the Jennie-O turkey plant and pump as much as eighty million dollars back into the local economy. AP reporter Gregg Aamot’s own family came from Scandinavia a century ago. He says Willmar is welcoming but (9) ______ of those here illegally.

GREGG AAMOT – “They want there to be a level playing field for everybody”.
KEVIN TIBBLES – Local schools have had to adapt. Nearly one third of students come from immigrant families.

ABDI AWLE – “I started in second grade, never seen a white person before so I was a little different”.

KEVIN TIBBLES – Matters of Somalia heritage 10) __________ the cross-country team to win the State championship two years in a row.

JERRY POPP – “These are Willmar kids. That’s what they are. They’re Willmar kids”.

GREGG AAMOT – It’s an all-American city, it just looks different than the all-American city of the 1950.

KEVIN TIBBLES – A helping hand in the heart of Middle America to newcomers from the four corners of the world. Kevin Tibbles, NBC news, Willmar, Minnesota.