

# The Buzz



Cathy Kightlinger's  
**TALK OF OUR TOWN**

## *Local stylist roots for Miss America*

Indianapolis stylist **Bobby Cooper** hosted his first Miss America viewing party last week — and for good reason.

Cooper, 32, is responsible for newly crowned Miss America **Katie Stam's** royal chocolate brown-hued locks. Stam, 22, is the first Miss

America from Indiana.

Cooper said he spent about four hours with Stam a couple of weeks before she earned the Miss America crown in Las Vegas on Jan. 24. He cut and colored the beauty queen's hair, and gave her styling tips.

The work would have cost a normal customer around \$250 per visit, but Stam didn't have to pay because Cooper offered her his sponsorship. That also included complimentary high-end hair products.

"I started doing her hair soon after she became Miss Indiana," said Cooper, whose salon is at 725 E. 65th St. "She was completely natural. She won Miss Indiana like that because she is naturally beautiful."

Cooper, who said the color of Stam's hair matches her warm brown eyes, didn't go to Las Vegas for the pageant. But he and his wife, **Sarah**, invited friends and employees to the pageant-watching party at their Indianapolis home.

"When it was getting right down to it, our hearts were pounding and we were screaming," said Cooper. "It was like we were watching the Super Bowl or something."

**Bobby Cooper began doing Katie Stam's hair after she became Miss Indiana. He cut and colored her hair for the Miss America pageant.**



ISAAC BREKKEN / Associated Press