

Merry Mountaineer *Christmas*



by Margo Williams
photos by Tony Cooper, TLC Photography

Tony and Christi Heaton's home isn't hard to spot among the contemporary and traditional homes in the Falling Waters area of W.Va. — just look for the WVU Mountaineer football helmet on the mailbox.

Both Heaton's are graduates of West Virginia University and love their home state team, the Mountaineers.

They purchased their home years ago and after Christi sketched out a perfect update to their floor plan, they called area contractors. The year was 2009 and the housing market was in a downward spiral, but the Heaton's loved their location, the community amenities and the proximity to their jobs and opted to stay in place and create their dream home. They nearly doubled their square footage.

"From the minute I moved into this home, I knew I wanted to eventually



expand it," says Christi. "I wanted an area where everyone can gather together." And with the addition of a theme room dedicated to their alma mater, they got just what they wanted.

After interviewing some contractors, a representative from 84 Lumber recommended local builder Jimmy Walker of J. Walker Construction.

"Jimmy came in, took his time to understand our needs and lifestyle, suggested an architect to design the perfect addition to create a seamless space — and here it is."



Typically when creating an addition, other issues arise, so the dated house received a complete overhaul including repair of structural issues. The Heaton's house is now their dream home, completely updated, upgraded and up to current building codes. A new roof, porch, vinyl siding, Timber Tech decking, and a



paved parking court were added. The kitchen, mudroom and bath were given a makeover.

A “his” and “her” space were also added. Her space includes a walk-in closet and dressing area that even the television character Carrie Bradshaw would envy! His space includes an additional 900 square foot garage to house the couple’s boat and vehicles. “Their space” is a huge great room totaling nearly 800 square feet.

The great room theme is football and the colors are an exact WVU match. From the gold on the walls to an area rug over beautiful hardwood floors, the colors match the famous Big East WVU team to a tee.

“The color selection was painstaking,” recalls Christi. Matching the rug colors and the wall colors took a great deal of time with “FANtastic” results. From playing a



game of pool to watching the game on a huge screen TV, the room is open to the kitchen and is the hub for family and friends. Decorated for the holidays, it adds a refreshing detour from the traditional. The Christmas tree includes WVU ornaments and color coordinated lights. The built-ins around the TV are filled with Mountaineer souvenirs, collectibles and WVU holiday décor.

“Beyond it being my alma mater, the West Virginia colors remind me of our wonderful area,” says Tony. He is especially proud of his collection of

signed Dale Sparks photos of some of his favorite WVU players over the years. They grace the walls of the addition, a WVU-theme guest bath and a kitchen wall.

The area is perfect for holiday entertaining. Food and fun flows from the kitchen to the dining area to the huge room. Even the leather sofa hails the WVU blue color. Christi says the additional space is perfect for entertaining. “We never wanted a home with a basement; we wanted an open area with great flow.”

The addition’s gargantuan size is perfect for this fun loving couple to create great memories rooting on their beloved Mountaineers.

IDEAS FOR A THEME ROOM ADDITION

Have fun with the idea. Personalize it to how you want it to fit your lifestyle.

The theme can be anything from professional baseball to hockey to a variety of sports legends.

Remember, this is YOUR space. Do it for yourself, not for resale.

